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TRANSCAUCASUS CONSTITUTIONS RESTORE LANGUAGE STATUS

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MATERIALS ON ARMENIAN HANDLING OF LANGUAGE ISSUE

Draft Provisions

Yerevan KOMMUNIST in Russian 22 Mar 78 pp 1-4

[Excerpts] Article 71. The Armenian SSR ensures the use of the Armenian language in state and social organs, cultural and other institutions, and implements the state concern for its utmost development.

In the Armenian SSR, on the basis of equality, free use of the Russian language is ensured in all these organs and institutions, as well as of other languages used by the population.

No privileges or restrictions in the use of any languages are permitted.

Article 104. The laws of the Armenian SSR, decrees and other acts of the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR are published in the Armenian, Russian and Azerbaijani languages, signed by the Chairman and Secretary of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR.

Article 157. Judicial proceedings are conducted in the Armenian language or in the language of the majority of the population of the given locality. Those persons taking part in the proceedings who do not have a command of the language in which the judicial proceedings are being conducted are ensured the right to become fully familiar with the materials of the proceedings and to participate in the legal actions through an interpreter, and the right to speak in court in the native language.

IX. Coat of Arms, Flag, Anthem and Capital of the Armenian SSR

Article 166. The state coat of arms of the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic is a depiction of Great and Little Ararat, above which is placed a hammer and sickle in a five-pointed star, surrounded by the rays of the sun. At the foot of the mountains is a grapevine with a cluster of grapes and leaves, and at the right and left are ears of wheat. Around the coat of arms, on the field, is the inscription: [Short passage in Armenian script follows], and below, against the red background, is an inscription in the Armenian and Russian languages: "Proletarians of All Countries, Unite!"

Article 167. The state flag of the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic is a rectangular red panel with a blue stripe in the middle running the entire length of the flag. The blue stripe is one-fourth the width of the flag. On the upper red section of the panel of the flag, near the staff, are depicted a gold hammer and sickle, and above them is a red five-pointed star, framed by a gold border. The ratio of the width of the flag to its length is 1:2.

Article 168. The state anthem of the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic is approved by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR.

Article 169. The capital of the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic is the city of Yerevan.

Constitutional Commission

Yerevan KOMMUNIST in Russian 12 Apr 78 p 1

[Article: "Meeting of the Constitutional Commission of the Armenian SSR"]

[Text] On 11 April a meeting of the Commission To Prepare the Draft of the Constitution of the Armenian SSR was held, under the chairmanship of K.S. Demirchyan, chairman of the Commission To Prepare the Draft of the Constitution of the Armenian SSR, first secretary of the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee.

The commission discussed the draft of the Constitution of the Armenian SSR in consideration of the proposals and amendments that had been received in the course of its public discussion in the republic.

The commission approved the draft of the Constitution (Fundamental Law) of the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic, with the elaborations and amendments resulting from its public discussion, and presented the draft to the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR, with its subsequent submitting for examination by the extraordinary 7th Session of the 9th Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR.

Central Committee Plenum

Yerevan KOMMUNIST in Russian 13 Apr 78 p 1 LD

[ARMENPRESS: "Information Report on the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee Plenum"]

[Text] An Armenian Communist Party Central Committee Plenum was held on 12 April.

The plenum heard a report by Comrade K.S. Demirchyan, first secretary of the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee and chairman of the Armenian SSR Constitutional Commission, "On the Draft of the Constitution (Fundamental Law) of the Armenian SSR and the Results of Its Public Discussion."

Participating in the discussion of the matter were Comrade N.P. Stepanyan, second secretary of the Yerevan Party Gorkom, Comrade G.A. Oganyan, first secretary of the Kirovakan Party Gorkom; Comrade U.Sh. Nasibyan, a worker; Comrade S.A. Ambartsumyan, rector of Yerevan State University; Comrade M. Dzh. Dzhavoyan, farmstead chief at the Oktember Village Kolkhoz in Oktemberyanskiy Rayon; Comrade D.D. Arutyunyan, first secretary of the Kamo Rayon Party Raykom; Comrade T.L. Gukasyan, unit leader at the Arevik Village Kolkhoz in Akhuryanskiy Rayon; Comrade P.M. Khachaturyan, first secretary of the Talinskiy Party Raykom.

The plenum basically approved the draft of the Constitution (Fundamental Law) of the Armenian SSR submitted by the Constitutional Commission, with the additions, clarifications and amendments made in accordance with the results of the public discussion and decreed that the draft of the constitution be submitted for examination by the extraordinary 7th session of the Armenian SSR 9th Supreme Soviet.

The plenum instructed Comrade K.S. Demirchyan, first secretary of the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee and chairman of the Constitutional Commission, to deliver a report at the Armenian SSR Supreme Soviet Session.

The plenum set party and soviet organs, ministries and departments, trade union, Komsomol and other social organizations the task of examining all the proposals and comments sent in by workers during the public discussion pertaining to specific sectors of state, economic and cultural building, and adopting the necessary measures on their practical implementation.

The plenum listened to a report from Comrade K.L. Dallakyan "On the State Anthem of the Armenian SSR." The plenum approved the words of the Armenian SSR state anthem and submitted this matter for examination by the Armenian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. The Armenian Communist Party Central Committee Plenum ended at this point.

Supreme Soviet

Yerevan KOMMUNIST in Russian 13 Apr 78 p 1

[Article: "Meeting of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR"]

[Text] On 12 April 1978, under the chairmanship of B.Ye. Sarkisov, a meeting of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR was held, at which the topic of the results of the public discussion of the draft of the Constitution of the Armenian SSR and the proposals received in the course of this discussion were examined.

Comrade K.S. Demirchyan, first secretary of the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee, chairman of the Constitutional Commission and member of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR, gave a report on this topic.

The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR noted with satisfaction that during the discussion of the draft of the republic's constitution the workers of the republic displayed great political and civic activeness and great interest in this document of state importance, wholeheartedly approved the draft of the new fundamental law and introduced proposals to improve the content of a number of its articles. The public discussion of the draft of the Constitution of the Armenian SSR once again showed the close rallying of the Armenian people and all the republic's workers around the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and their constant readiness to put into effect the policy of the CPSU and the Soviet State.

The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR adopted a decree in which it took notice of the great work of the Constitutional Commission in summarizing and discussing all the proposals received from collectives of workers, social organizations and individual citizens.

The presidium approved the draft of the Constitution (Fundamental Law) of the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic, submitted by the Constitutional Commission, with the amendments and in consideration of the proposals received in the course of its public discussion, and resolved to submit the draft of the constitution (fundamental law) of the republic for examination of the extraordinary 7th Session of the 9th Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR.

The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR also discussed the question of the approval of the Armenian SSR state anthem.

Comrade K.L. Dallakyan, secretary of the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee and deputy of the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR, spoke on this topic at the meeting of the presidium.

The presidium adopted a Ukase which approved the text of the state anthem of the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic. It was established that general performance of the Armenian SSR state anthem would be introduced beginning on 1 May 1978.

The text of the state anthem and the notes of the music have been published in today's newspapers.

Demirchyan Report

Yerevan KOMMUNIST in Russian 14 Apr 78 pp 1-3

[Report by Comrade K.S. Demirchyan, first secretary of the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee, chairman of the Constitutional Commission of the Armenian SSR, on the draft of the Constitution (Fundamental Law) of the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic and the results of its public discussion at the extraordinary 7th Session of the 9th Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR; date not specified]

[Text] Respected comrades and deputies!

The workers of the republic received the draft of the new Constitution of Soviet Armenia with great enthusiasm. Its public discussion took place under conditions of great political and work activity. Even today, when the days of the public discussion are behind us and the draft has been submitted for the examination and approval of the extraordinary session of the Armenian SSR Supreme Soviet, their thoughts and gaze are riveted on this hall, on the work of this session. This interest in today's session is fully understandable, for after all, it is to accomplish a historic act of great importance--to adopt and proclaim the new Constitution of the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic.

Naturally, all of us, the direct participants in this significant event, are now experiencing a feeling of great, joyful emotion. It is to us, the elected representatives of the people, that the happy mission, the esteemed duty and the great honor has fallen--approving the new Fundamental Law of the republic, and thereby securing what the Armenian people, the workers of Soviet Armenia, under the leadership of Lenin's Communist Party, have achieved during the years of Soviet power in the building of socialism and communism, and in the struggle for the triumph of our bright ideals.

We are adopting the new constitution of the republic just a few months after the approval by the USSR Supreme Soviet of the new Fundamental Law of the Soviet State, in which the will of the people and the party secure the world-historic victory of the country of the Soviets in the forward movement toward the heights of communism and the historic milestone achieved by our native land--the building of the first national state in the world, the society of developed socialism.

The Fundamental Law of the USSR is the fruit of the creation of the broadest working masses. It embodies their experience, knowledge and will, and concern for the flourishing of the socialist native land and for the rise of its international prestige.

The Soviet people rightfully consider the establishing of the new constitution to be the result of the collective thought and wisdom of our party and of its Leninist staff--the CPSU Central Committee and its Politburo--rightfully connect it with the name of Leonid Il'ich Brezhnev and express deep gratitude to him for his great personal contribution to the drafting of this most important document of our day--the charter of a developed socialist society.

Years and decades will pass, and the day of proclaiming the Fundamental Law of a society of developed socialism will remain in the people's memory as a testimony of the true triumph of Lenin's principles of the sovereignty of the people.

1.

Comrades! The adoption of the new USSR Constitution was an important landmark in our country's political history and has become an epoch-making document of our time, fully expressing the program slogan of the CPSU: "Everything in the name of man and for the good of man," and the cherished dreams and aspirations of the Soviet people.

The new USSR Constitution is vivid evidence of the fact that the ideals proclaimed by the October Revolution and Lenin's behests are being successfully put into practice.

An extremely important result of the selfless work of the Soviet people for six decades is the building in the USSR of a society of developed socialism --the highest achievement of modern social progress.

In its socio-economical, political and spiritual development our native land has achieved the height of modern progress. The country's economic system has changed unrecognizably. A unified, powerful national economic complex has formed. Developing on the basis of combining the scientific-technical revolution with the advantages of the socialist system, it makes it possible to solve successfully the extremely important problem of establishing the material-technical base of communism.

Profound changes have also taken place in the social aspect of Soviet society. The Soviet working class has grown quantitatively and changed qualitatively. Its political experience has been enriched, and the level of communist awareness has risen. The work, social aspect and culture of the kolkhoz peasantry have changed, which has brought it considerably closer to the working class. Living and working in close unity with the working class and the kolkhoz peasantry is our intelligentsia, which has become truly national and socialist.

The economic development of Soviet society was inevitably accompanied by the flourishing of culture, by the spiritual growth of the people, by the formation of their socialist consciousness and a rise in their standard of living. International relations have developed and become closer, and the friendship of all nations and nationalities of the USSR has been strengthened, which is the most convincing proof of the triumph of the Leninist national policy of the CPSU. A common denominator of all these changes is the growing social uniformity of Soviet society.

The historic significance of the new Constitution of the Soviet Union also consists of the fact that it, in securing by legislation the fact of the building of developed socialism and in reflecting the results of the development of the Soviet country, which took place after the adoption of the preceding constitution, and the profound changes in principle, which touched all spheres of social life, has brought the principles of organization and the goals of the socialist national state, the tasks, structure, functions and work procedure of its organs into conformity with the stage of development of the society.

The grand achievements of developed socialism, which have created the need to establish a new USSR Constitution, are rightfully connected by the Soviet people with Lenin's great party. They received the new constitutional provisions, securing by legislation the leading role of the CPSU in the Soviet state's political system, with great satisfaction.

For Soviet society the new constitution has become an important means of further developing and intensifying socialist democracy, an implement for the building of communism.

2.

Comrades! All the major historic changes and achievements that are characteristic of the Soviet country as a whole are naturally also characteristic of all the union republics that constitute the powerful, indissoluble union of sovereign soviet socialist republics. Hence the objective need also arises to adopt new constitutions for the union republics.

To prepare the new constitution for the republic, as you know, in July of last year the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR formed a Constitutional Commission, which included experienced party and state workers and representatives of the working class, the kolkhoz peasantry and the national intelligentsia.

In preparing the draft, the Constitutional Commission was guided by the Program of the Communist Party and the resolutions of its congress, by the principles and norms of the new USSR Constitution, and by the theoretical and practical provisions and generalizations set forth in the speech made by Comrade L.I. Brezhnev at the CPSU Central Committee May (1977) Plenum, the extraordinary 7th Session of the USSR Supreme Soviet and in his article, "A Historic Milestone on the Road to Communism," and also proceeded on the basis of the special features of our republic. Actively drawn into developing the draft of the constitution were eminent scientists, lawyers, historians, economists, sociologists, philosophers and workers of the state organs and social organizations. The draft was thoroughly examined at the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee Plenum.

The draft of the Constitution of the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic submitted for your examination most fully corresponds to the present stage of development of the republic, the requirements of a mature socialist society and the heights of economic, social and political progress achieved by the Armenian people under the leadership of the Communist Party in the unified international family of peoples of the Soviet Union.

The almost 60-year old heroic path traversed by the Armenian people from the first steps of Soviet power to the building of a society of developed socialism, which has become a path of struggle and creation, of social progress and fundamental socialist reforms, is noted by the remarkable

stages of affirmation and development of the socialist sovereignty in the republic. While the first Constitution of Soviet Armenia, adopted in 1922, secured the principles of the new social and state system, the second, proclaimed in 1937, summed up the achievements of the republic's workers in economic, social and political life and completing the creation of the bases of socialism.

The four decades that have passed since the adoption of the second constitution have been for Soviet Armenia decades of rapid progress in all spheres of socio-economic and spiritual life. The republic, in the full sense of the word, has been transformed into a flourishing region with highly developed industry, major mechanized agriculture and advanced culture.

During this period the industrial output in the republic rose 60 times, and its proportion in the gross national product is now approximately 70 percent. Armenia, where before the revolution even pins were imported, now, included in all-union export, sends to dozens of countries in the world hundreds of types of items, and the most complex modern machines and machine tools.

The republic's dynamically developing industry is now characterized by such leading sectors as power engineering, chemistry, electrical equipment, radio engineering, electronics, machine tool building, metallurgy, instrument making, the production of calculators, building materials and also sectors of the light and food industry, etc. In just the last 10 years as much fixed production capital has been turned over for operation as was designed during all the preceding years. With respect to the growth rates of industrial production, Soviet Armenia occupies one of the leading places in the country.

The republic's industry is now distinguished by a high level of organization, technology and good working conditions with high production standards, and is provided with the newest equipment, complex machine tools and industrial equipment. Labor conditions have improved radically and its power- and machine-worker ratio has risen.

The working class of the republic today consists of hundreds of thousands of politically mature, educated, technically competent, highly skilled, socially active people, whose work is coming increasingly closer to that of the engineering and technical personnel.

Agriculture in the republic has become highly mechanized and highly marketable. The gross agricultural output in 1976 increased by over 300 percent as compared with 1940. While in 1937 there were 1,199 tractors in the agriculture of the Armenian SSR, in 1976 there were 11,996. The area of irrigated lands in 1937 was 160,600 hectares, and in 1976--273,300 hectares. The republic's agriculture is developing along the path of intensification of production, specialization and cooperation, consistently converting to industrial bases. The power-worker ratio of agricultural production is

steadily increasing. The social aspect of the rural areas has also changed. The psychology of the agricultural worker of our day has been formed on a socialist basis. The sovkhoz workers and the kolkhoz workers are now able to use complicated equipment. Their everyday life differs little from that of the urban worker.

The workers' and kolkhoz workers' participation in state administration is constantly growing. They constitute 69.2 percent of the total number of deputies of the local soviets, and 51.0 percent of the deputies of the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR.

National education, science and culture have been developed on a gigantic scale. In 1977 in the republic over 1,115,000 persons were included in various types of instruction, and of them 631,000 were being instructed in the general education schools, 21,500 at secondary vocational-technical schools, 54,800 in teknikums and other secondary specialized educational institutions and 56,400 persons in higher education institutions. For comparison, let us note that in 1937 the total number of students in the republic was about 273,000 persons. At that time, however, there were only 8,000 teachers, and now--over 43,300.

The republic has a considerable intellectual potential. With respect to the number of persons with higher and secondary education per 1000 inhabitants, the Armenian SSR is in one of the top places in the Union. Labor forces in practically all the most important modern specialties are being trained in the republic's 13 VUZ's. The republic has over 100 scientific research institutes, in which a multi-thousand-member detachment of scientists is working.

The republic has achieved tremendous progress in social development and in raising the cultural level and well-being of the workers. While in 1946 only 36,000 square meters of living space were put into operation, in 1977, through all sources of financing, housing with a total area of 1,205,000 square meters was constructed.

The payments and benefits obtained by the population from the public consumption funds constituted 912.4 million rubles in 1977, and per capita--312 rubles, as against 107 rubles in 1960.

Numerous sanatoriums, hospitals, cultural centers, educational institutions and facilities for everyday service, trade, physical culture and sports have been constructed.

In 1937 there were 771 physicians working in the republic, and today the number of physicians in all specialties is 10,500 persons. While in 1937 there were only 530 mass libraries in the Armenian SSR, with a book collection of 394,400 copies, today 1,321 mass libraries with a collection of over 12 million copies serve the population of the cities and rural areas of the republic.

The material and cultural growth of this scale has brought the living and working conditions in the city and country and physical and mental labor closer together.

Already, under socialism, new generations of Soviet people have grown up and been educated and their socialist consciousness has formed. Social relations are implemented according to the collective principles inherent in socialism.

The moral and political unity of the republic's workers has grown stronger, the friendship of the Armenian people with all the other fraternal peoples of the USSR has been reinforced, and the rallying of our republic's workers around the Communist Party of the Soviet Union has become even closer.

Here, in general outline, are the major changes that have taken place during the last few decades in the republic that have necessitated the creation and adoption of the new constitution.

The draft of the Constitution of the Armenian SSR fully reflects the changes in the development of the material base of society, the productive forces and social relations, the reinforcement of the Soviet socialist state and the changes in the social structure, changes that have taken place in practically all spheres of the material and spiritual life of our society. The constitution, in securing these historic reforms, brings the legislative structure of the republic into conformity with the new level and ratio of all components of the bases of the Soviet social system.

3.

Comrades! The draft of the republic's constitution, as has been said, is based on a powerful foundation--the new USSR Constitution. Its rich, varied social and legal, political, ideological and scientific content is an extremely important source for the constitutional legislation of the Armenian SSR. In working out the draft of the constitution we were also guided by the principle of continuity. In it are preserved and developed many provisions of the existing Constitution of the Armenian SSR.

The legal foundation for the draft of the Constitution of the Armenian SSR was also our republic's legislation. In the last few years a great deal has been done in our country with respect to improving and developing the legislation. Laws were adopted on the local soviets, public health and public education, on the protection and utilization of monuments of history and culture, the Code on Marriage and the Family, the Land Code, the Water Code, the Code of the Armenian SSR on Underground Resources, The Labor Law Code, etc. The requirements of all these extremely important legislative acts have been reflected in the draft.

The draft of the Constitution of the Armenian SSR has a sound practical and theoretical basis. In this we see the pledge of the vitality and effectiveness of our Fundamental Law.

The modern tasks of communist construction, the higher organization of the social and state system under the conditions of developed socialism, and the broad political and theoretical bases of the draft of the republic's new constitution, stemming from the USSR Constitution, have made their mark on its content, structure and volume. The draft contains 10 sections, 19 chapters and 171 articles. The existing Constitution of the Armenian SSR contains 11 chapters and 123 articles. The new sections, chapters and articles make it possible to record more fully and clearly the basic parameters of the social and state order of the republic, the constitutional status of the citizens and the principles of organization and work of the state organs and to reveal more fully the new features inherent in the present stage of development of our society.

The draft of the constitution begins with a brief preamble, in which are summed up the main results of the path traversed by Soviet Armenia in the fraternal family of peoples of the USSR and in which the fact of the building of the developed socialist society is recorded. The preamble says: "The Great October Socialist Revolution, achieved by the workers and peasants of Russia under the leadership of the Communist Party headed by V.I. Lenin, for the Armenian people, just as for the other peoples of the country, signified a historical turn, with which began its new history, social and national rebirth and the affirmation of its socialist sovereignty."

The draft contains a detailed description of the guiding and directing role of the Communist Party in Soviet society.

The workers of our republic, just as all the Soviet people, were convinced, in the historic experience, that the Communist Party exists for the people and serves the people. They have unlimited faith in the party and unanimously support and warmly approve its domestic and foreign policy. In Article 6 of the draft, just as in the USSR Constitution, it says that the CPSU is the guiding and directing force of Soviet society, the nucleus of its political system and the state and social organizations.

The draft of the Fundamental Law of the Armenian SSR, just as of the USSR Constitution, reflects the problems of the social system and the policy of the republic, the political and economic system, in which are reflected most fully the socialist nature of our social system and state and the special features of the present stage of development of socialism in our country. The draft reveals in detail the nature of the structure and path of development of the political system of the Armenian SSR.

Revealed in all its fullness in the draft of the Constitution of the Armenian SSR is the essence of our society, as a society of workers and for workers. This fundamental principle permeates the entire content of the draft of the Fundamental Law of the republic, and even Article 1, which says: "The Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic is a socialist national state, expressing the will and interests of the workers, peasants and the

intelligentsia, of the workers of all nationalities in the republic," and Article 2 of the draft proclaims: "All the power in the Armenian SSR belongs to the people.

"The people implement state power through the soviets of people's deputies, which constitute the political basis of the Armenian SSR. All the other state organs are under the control of and accountable to the soviets of people's deputies."

In the draft of the constitution our soviets have been renamed (as has already been done in the Union Constitution) the soviets of people's deputies. The new title of the representative organs of the state authority of the Armenian SSR emphasizes that in a developed socialist society all the people emerge as the social basis of the soviets, and their will is expressed and put into effect by the organs of authority and the people's deputies. The draft of the constitution develops the democratic principles of organization and work of the soviets and specifies further strengthening of their ties with the masses.

In the draft a special article was devoted to the trade unions, the Lenin Young Communist League, cooperative and other social organizations, and in it their participation in the administration of state and social affairs, in solving political, economic and social and cultural problems in accordance with their prescribed tasks was secured.

The constitution secures the place of the working collective as the primary cell of the social organism of our society. This is vivid evidence of how the role of the worker as the creator of all material and spiritual values has increased in our state. In noting this fact, Comrade L.I. Brezhnev said: "The working collective and the work of its party, trade union and Komsomol organizations reflect the entire life of society--economic, political and spiritual...." And, "...In this primary cell of our social organism are born and develop the undertakings that affect the life of the entire country."

Article 8 of the draft of the Constitution of the Armenian SSR establishes the fact that the working collectives take part in discussing and solving state and social affairs, in planning production and social development, in training and placing personnel and in discussing and solving the problems of administration of enterprises and institutions, of improving labor and everyday conditions, using resources designated for the development of production and also for social and cultural measures and material incentive. The working collectives develop socialist competition, contribute to the dissemination of advanced work methods and reinforcing labor discipline, educate their members in the spirit of communist morality and are concerned with raising their political awareness, culture and vocational skills. This constitutional provision is directed toward carrying out the instructions of V.I. Lenin that "When everyone learns to administer and actually will be administering independently social production..., the door will be open wide to a transition from the first phase of the communist society to its higher phase..." ("Complete Collected Works," Vol 33, p 102).

These provisions, along with the securing of the guiding and directing role of the CPSU, the principles of organization and work of the state and the functions of the mass social organizations constitute the fundamental lines of the political system of a developed socialist society existing in our country.

The description of the political system of the Armenian SSR in the draft of the constitution concludes by pointing out that the fundamental direction of its development is a further development of socialist democracy. The draft defines the path of development of this process.

The draft gives a detailed description of the economic system of the Armenian SSR. Socialist ownership of the means of production in the form of state (public) and kolkhoz-cooperative property constitutes the basis of the republic's economic system. It is also said that socialist property is the property of the trade union and other social organizations, needed by them to implement the prescribed tasks. The state protects socialist property and creates the conditions for its augmentation. It is recorded in the draft of the constitution that no one has the right to use socialist property for purposes of personal profit and for other mercenary motives.

The draft emphasizes the role of labor in a socialist society and determines the goal of socialist production. It says that the highest goal of social production under socialism is the fullest satisfaction of the growing material and spiritual demands of the people.

The draft says that the source of the growth of social wealth, the well-being of the people and each Soviet man is the work of the Soviet people, free from exploitation.

Socially useful labor and its results determine man's position in society. The state, in combining material and moral incentives, in stimulating innovativeness and a creative attitude toward work, contributes to converting labor into the first vital need of each Soviet man.

The same chapter says that work incomes constitute the basis of the personal property of the citizens of the Armenian SSR. The personal property of the citizens is protected by the state. At the same time, stress should be laid on the constitutional provision according to which: "Property that is under personal ownership or at the citizens' use should not serve to derive nonlabor incomes nor be used to the detriment of society's interests."

As was noted above, a powerful unified national economic complex has formed in our country. On the basis of this, the draft of the constitution emphasizes that the economic system of the Armenian SSR is a component of the unified national economic complex, encompassing all the units of social production, distribution and exchange on the territory of the USSR.

It is noted that the leadership of the economic system in the Armenian SSR is implemented on the basis of the state plans for economic and social development, in consideration of the sectorial and territorial principles, with a combination of centralized administration and economic independence and initiative of the enterprises, associations and other organizations. At the same time, the economic accountability, profit, production cost and other economic levers and incentives are actively used.

As the national economy develops and the cities and industrial centers grow, efficient use of nature and conservation of the natural environment becomes increasingly important in implementation of economic construction, especially for our republic. This problem was reflected in the draft of the constitution. "In the interests of the present and future generations," it was said in the draft, "the necessary measures are being taken in the Armenian SSR for the protection and scientifically substantiated, efficient use of land and its underground resources, water resources, vegetable and animal kingdom, for preserving the purity of the air and the water, ensuring the reproduction of natural wealth and improving man's environment."

The concern of the party and government for nature protection in the Armenian SSR was vividly displayed in the decrees adopted during the last few years by the CPSU Central Committee and the Soviet Government "On Measures for Further Development of the National Economy of the Armenian SSR," "On Ceasing Construction of the Razdan Mining and Chemical Combine," and "On Measures for the Further Development and Increase in the Efficiency of Irrigation Farming in the Armenian SSR," as well as the measures now being drafted on the instructions of the CPSU Central Committee for the protection and efficient use of the natural resources of Lake Sevan. These vitally important decrees created great potentials and allotted the necessary resources for correcting the errors made on the subject of nature protection and a radical improvement in this matter in the republic.

Comrades! The draft contains a chapter that is new, as compared with the existing constitution--"Social Development and Culture." It also reflects the special features of developed socialism, which ensures the all-round cultural progress of society and fuller manifestation of the humanist nature of the national state.

The nature of our society, as a society of workers, is also embodied in its social basis. "The social basis of the Armenian SSR," it says in Article 19 of the draft of the constitution, "is the indissoluble union of workers, peasants and intelligentsia." The Soviet State is contributing to the intensification of the social uniformity of society--to wiping out the essential differences between the city and the rural areas, between mental and physical labor, and to the further development and rapprochement of all the nations and nationalities of the USSR, i.e., is creating favorable social and cultural prerequisites for execution of the party's programmed goals--affirmation of the communist social relations and the formation of the new man.

In accordance with the communist ideal, "Free development of each person is the condition for the free development of all," the state is making its goal the expansion of the actual opportunities for the citizens' use of their creative forces, abilities and talents, for the all-round development of the individual.

The state is concerned about improving the conditions and safety regulations of labor and its scientific organization, and about reducing, and in the future fully supplanting heavy physical labor on the basis of complete mechanization and automation of the production processes in all sectors of the national economy.

The draft of the constitution says that the state is implementing a course toward increasing the real incomes of the workers and is concerned about the development of systems of public health, social security, trade and public catering, everyday service and municipal service. The state ensures the development of a unified system, in accordance with the plan, of public education and science, and is concerned about communist education of the workers and young people and their spiritual and physical development.

The draft says that the state is concerned with protecting, increasing and broadly using spiritual values for the moral and esthetic education of the Soviet people and raising their cultural level.

A separate chapter of the draft of the Constitution of the Armenian SSR is devoted to foreign political work and the defense of the socialist native land. There is no analogous chapter in the republic's existing constitution. In this chapter of the draft it is emphasized that the Armenian SSR is guided in its foreign policy work by the goals, tasks and principles of the foreign policy determined by the USSR Constitution. It is taking part in ensuring security and the defense capacity of the country and equipping the USSR Armed Forces with everything necessary.

Comrades! One of the main features of the draft of the constitution is the further expansion and development of socialist democracy. "We now know, not only from theory, but also from many years of practical experience: just as true democracy is impossible without socialism, so is socialism impossible without the constant development of democracy," noted Comrade L.I. Brezhnev at the 25th CPSU Congress. Improving our socialist democracy we understand, above all, as the steady ensuring of increasingly widespread participation of the workers in the administration of all the affairs of society, as the further development of the democratic bases of our state system, as the creating of the conditions for the all-round growth of the individual. The party has been working, and will continue to work in this direction." Improving socialist democracy is closely connected with the broadening and deepening of the rights and freedoms of the citizens. It is a question of developing an individual that is capable of increasing the physical and spiritual wealth of our society, of consciously and competently taking part in the administration of social and state affairs. This task is vast in scale, for it is a question of all members of our society. The task is

profoundly humanist in its meaning and extremely complex in its nature. It is a task which has not and could not be set by any other society.

It is not by chance that one of the central sections of the new USSR Constitution is devoted to questions of the rights, freedoms and duties of the individual. This is also the case in our draft: out of 171 articles in the draft of the Constitution of the Armenian SSR, 37 are devoted to the interrelations between state and individual. They are directed toward consolidating the legal position of the individual, expanding his rights and freedoms, improving the legislation and working out the mechanism that ensures reliable guarantees against any violations of the rights of the citizens and bureaucratic misinterpretations. The duties which the state takes on to satisfy the growing demands of the Soviet people and raise their standard of living and culture are expanding. The duties of the citizens are also set forth in detail.

Both the USSR Constitution and our draft contain a broad spectrum of rights of the citizens that affect the very bases of the life of each one--these are the rights to work, to leisure, to health protection, to social security, to education, to enjoying the achievements of culture and to freedom of scientific, technical and artistic creativity. Introduced for the first time were proposals on the rights of citizens to housing and to free choice of vocation in accordance with the desires and potentials of each individual and in consideration of the social demands and others. The right of the Soviet man to participate in the administration of social affairs is ensured by additional guarantees.

The citizens' political rights are expanded and enriched. Of importance in principle is the constitutional securing of the right to participate in the administration of state and social affairs and to submit to the state and social organizations proposals on improving their work and to criticize the shortcomings in work.

With respect to the aggregate of social and political freedoms, economic and cultural blessings and with respect to their moral potential, our country gives incomparably more for the development of the individual than has been recorded up to now in the history of any country. Comrade L.I. Brezhnev said that in our constitution, "The socio-economic and political rights and freedoms of the citizens and the specific guarantees of implementation of these rights that are recorded are broader, clearer and fuller than anywhere or at any time."

It is recorded in the new Fundamental Law of the USSR that the implementation of the rights and freedoms is inseparable from the citizens' execution of their duties, and that each member of the socialist society is filled with a sense of civic responsibility. The more society gives the individual, the more requirements are made of his socio-political activity, the ability to be guided correctly by social interests and to make correct use of his creative potential for the good of society. This position of principle was

also recorded in the draft of the Constitution of the Armenian SSR. In Article 57 of the draft it is said: "Implementation of the rights and freedoms is inseparable from the citizen's execution of his duties."

"A citizen of the Armenian SSR is obliged to adhere to the USSR Constitution and the Constitution of the Armenian SSR, and to Soviet laws, to respect the rules of a socialist community and to bear with dignity the high title of a Soviet citizen."

Naturally, the socialist state cannot permit freedom to be used against the social system for which the Soviet people voted long ago, and to which they constantly confirm their loyalty with their patriotic deeds. Our society openly proclaims that it establishes the limits and direct bans on any behavior that would do harm to the national, state interests and the rights and freedoms of the citizens of the socialist society. The Soviet State forbids propaganda of war, and of racial and national enmity, does not permit dissemination of literature or films that advocate violence or immorality and corrupt the young generation.

This is the circumstance that arouses the displeasure and irritation of our ideological opponents. The adherents of "absolute," "unlimited" freedom see in this the "negation" of all democratic rights and freedoms of the Soviet citizens. The "advocates" of the rights of man pretend that they don't know that the provisions of the Soviet Constitution fully correspond to the most important international documents. Marxism-Leninism rejects abstract freedom. Freedom is a class concept, and the advocating of unlimited, abstract freedom is a deception and a hypocrisy, masking the class nature of freedom.

The Soviet people distinctly realize that the restriction of freedom for the enemies of a socialist society is not an infringement of democracy, not an obstacle to implementing freedom for the individual, but, on the contrary, serves to defend true democracy--democracy for the people, the protection of their fundamental interests against criminal encroachments.

The new Soviet Constitution, in guaranteeing various forms and a tremendous scale of the workers' practical participation in the administration of social and state affairs and the expansion of their rights and freedoms, places on the scales of history the visible proofs of the advantages of the true democratism of our system against the vulgarized and distorted bourgeois concepts of democracy and the rights of man.

On the path of its almost 60 years of socialist development, the Armenian people and the workers of Soviet Armenia, using the experience of true socialism, have become firmly and irrevocably convinced that socialism is the fairest society in the workers' interests, and that this is a society of true humanism, a society of liberated labor, of true democracy, of real freedom of the individual, a society of social optimism, a society in which the main asset is the worker, in which the actual rights to work, education, leisure and to full employment of the workers are ensured, in which the

true conditions and potentials are created for all-round growth of all the members of society, and for peaceful, creative work, a society in which man is firmly confident in tomorrow, and in a happy future for his children. They are deeply convinced that socialist democracy, in extending to the political, economic and spiritual life of Soviet society and each member of the society, expresses and defends the interests of the people and serves the cause of communism, that it ensures social justice and social equality, that a socialist democracy is the unity of rights and duties, of true freedom and civic responsibilities and the harmonious combination of the interests of society, the collective and the individual.

Comrades! One of the sections of the draft of the constitution, replacing the second chapter of the constitution now in effect--"The State System"--is devoted to national-state and administrative-territorial structure of the Armenian SSR. The new title of the section more fully and clearly reflects its inner content.

In the draft of the constitution the Armenian SSR is defined as a sovereign Soviet socialist state, which with a view to the successful building of a communist society, reinforcing economic and political unity and ensuring the security and defense of the country as the result of the freedom of self-determination, on the basis of the voluntary nature and equality of rights, together with the other Soviet socialist republics is joined into the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics--the only union, multination state.

Historical experience has convincingly shown that the practical implementation of Lenin's principles of a Soviet federation ensured the comprehensive flourishing and rapprochement of all the nations and nationalities of the Soviet Union, the further intensification of their fraternal, equal international collaboration in all spheres of life and unprecedented socio-economic and cultural progress for all the Soviet republics.

For everything that the Armenian people achieved during the years of building socialism, accomplishing the leap from backwardness and devastation to today's economic development and to the heights of modern civilization--for all this it is obliged to Lenin's friendship of the fraternal nations of the USSR, gathered in a unified family, to mutual assistance and collaboration and Lenin's wise national policy for the Communist Party.

A solid guarantee of our further development is the party's life-giving Leninist national policy, the indissoluble friendship of peoples and internationalism.

All the spheres of our life and work--from economics to ideology, from international relations to human relations and psychology--breathe internationalism. We can announce with pride today that, due to the consistent work of the Communist Party, the workers of Soviet Armenia, just as of all our great native land, have been raised as Soviet patriots and internationalists. Proletarian internationalism is the credo of our republic's workers and it is the ideas of internationalism that permeate the draft of our new constitution.

Both the USSR Constitution and the draft of the Fundamental Law of the Armenian SSR reflect a higher degree of internationalization of the physical and spiritual life of the peoples of the Soviet country--a process being developed under the conditions of socialism in truly democratic forms.

It is noted in the draft that the sovereign rights of the Armenian SSR, in accordance with the USSR Constitution, are protected by the USSR. The Armenian SSR takes part in solving problems referred to the jurisdiction of the USSR, in the USSR Supreme Soviet, the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, the government of the USSR and other organs of the USSR. In accordance with the USSR Constitution, the Armenian SSR, in the person of its higher organs of state authority, has the right to legislative initiative in the USSR Supreme Soviet.

Comrades! The section of the draft of the constitution--"Soviets of People's Deputies of the Armenian SSR and the Procedure for Electing Them"--defines the system of the soviets of the republic, the basic principles of their work, the electoral system and the legal status of a people's deputy. The draft retains as its basis the existing system of state organs of the republic, and at the same time introduces the necessary changes in their competence, and the procedure for functioning as applied to the problems and demands of a developed socialist society.

The draft establishes new terms of office for the soviets of people's deputies: for the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR--5 years, for the rayon, municipal, municipal rayon, settlement and rural soviets of people's deputies--2 1/2 years. The draft grants the right to be elected to the republic's Supreme Soviet to all citizens who have reached the age of 18 years.

The constitutional status of the Supreme Soviet, its Presidium and the Council of Ministers of the republic is more clearly defined, and their organizational structure and forms of work organization are improved. For the first time in the history of our legislation, the norm of the representation, not determined, and the total number of deputies of the Supreme Soviet is secured. Article 99 of the draft says: "The Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR consists of 340 deputies, elected by electoral okrugs with an equal population size." This solution of the problem eliminates the need for a periodic change in the norms for representation and numerical composition of the republic's Supreme Soviet. In addition, the electoral okrugs will become stable.

The chapters of the draft devoted to the local organs of state authority and administration in the Armenian SSR reflect the gigantic amount of work done by the party in the last few years to strengthen the local soviets and to augment their role in the leadership of social and cultural construction. The rights of the local soviets of all levels are to be considerably expanded and their responsibility increased.

The Communist Party has always proceeded from the fact that each of the local soviets is a particle of the supreme authority and that it is not only endowed with the powers to solve all the problems that come under its competence, but also serves as the executor of the all-state decisions.

The draft specifies a new chapter on the State Plan for Economic and Social Development of the Armenian SSR, which gives its characteristics and the principles of its formation and development. Together with the chapter on the State Budget, the chapter on the State Plan constitutes a special section of the constitution, reflecting the principles of the interrelation between the plan and the State Budget.

Further reinforcement of socialist legal order and rule of law, an improvement in the work of all the organs called upon to ensure strict and undeviating application of Soviet laws and protect the rights of the citizens have been deeply and thoroughly reflected in the draft of the new constitution.

These in brief are the main features of the content of the draft of the new Constitution of the Armenian SSR.

4.

Comrades and deputies!

In connection with the development and discussion of the draft of the Constitution of the Central Committee of the Armenian Communist Party, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the republic and the party and Soviet organs have done a great deal of organizational and political work. Since the day when the draft of the new Constitution of the Armenian SSR was published and up to the beginning of this session of the Supreme Soviet, there was free, businesslike and truly public discussion of it in the republic. The concluding stage of this discussion is the present session of the Supreme Soviet.

The draft was discussed at meetings of collectives of production enterprises and kolkhozes, scientific institutions, creative organizations, higher educational institutions, of workers of all sectors of the national economy, at the citizens' places of residence and in military units. It was submitted for the discussion of meetings of the primary party organizations and sessions of municipal, rayon, settlement and rural soviets of people's deputies and Komsomol and trade union organizations.

A widescale and businesslike exchange of opinions on the draft of the constitution was organized on the pages of the republic newspapers and journals and city and rayon press and on radio and television.

The draft of the constitution was discussed at numerous meetings of the deputies of the Supreme Soviet of the republic with their electors, held before the present session.

It may be said that, both during the public discussion of the draft of the new USSR Constitution and now, almost all the adult population, party, Komsomol, trade union and social organizations and local soviets of people's deputies of the republic took a most active and direct part in free and businesslike discussion of the draft of the new Fundamental Law of the Armenian SSR.

All strata of the republic's population, people in various occupations and of various ages and nationalities, communists and nonparty members analyzed and discussed carefully and in detail the draft of the new constitution. Each section of the draft of the constitution, each chapter and article of it was within their field of vision.

The tremendous political and civic activeness of the workers during the discussion of the draft of the constitution and their heightened interest are a graphic reflection of one of the main aspects of the socialist way of life of the Soviet man, who does not detach himself from the state and regards state interests and national interests as his own vital affair.

All this, comrade deputies, gives us reason to state with satisfaction that after taking such a businesslike and active part in the discussion, the workers, kolkhoz workers and intelligentsia of the republic essentially became the creators in the preparation of the new Fundamental Law of the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic.

Permit me, from this rostrum, on behalf of the Supreme Soviet of the republic, to express heartfelt gratitude to each participant in the public discussion of the draft of the constitution and to express to all of them warm wishes for further progress in their social, political and personal life, in state affairs and in their creative labor for the good of our great native land.

The Constitutional Commission reports with great satisfaction to the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR that the draft of the new constitution of the republic and all its provisions were everywhere fully supported and approved in the course of the public discussion.

This, above all, is the main political result of the public discussion of this most important document.

The public discussion of the draft showed that our workers interpret the new constitution as a bright new manifestation of the concern of Lenin's party for the further flourishing of Soviet Armenia and the well-being of our people.

The unanimous approval of the draft of the new fundamental law of the republic is bright new confirmation of the fact that the Armenian people and all the workers of Soviet Armenia wholly and fully support the domestic and foreign policy of our Leninist Communist Party.

The Armenian people and the workers of the republic welcomed and discussed the draft of the new fundamental law with an exalted feeling of love, devotion and legitimate pride in our great native land--the USSR--as a member of which, in the unified international family of fraternal union republics, Soviet Armenia has traversed the glorious path of social progress and great socialist reforms.

The republic's workers greeted this document with a feeling of deep gratitude and boundless thankfulness to the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and its tried and tested fighting staff--the Central Committee, the Central Committee Politburo and personally to Comrade Leonid Il'ich Brezhnev, general secretary of the Central Committee, head of the Soviet National State, eminent political and state figure of our time and true Leninist, for consistent embodiment of the party's general line and for the steady implementation of Lenin's national policy, one of the specific expressions of which is the birth of the new Constitution of the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic.

In the course of the public discussion of the draft of the new Constitution of the Armenian SSR, many proposals on individual articles were received.

The Constitutional Commission carefully and with utmost attention, examined and studied them. By summarizing the proposals and wishes expressed by the participants in the public discussion of the draft, it is possible to break them down into the following groups.

The first group, and moreover the largest, include the proposals which in various presentations and formulations express the same idea on the corresponding articles of the draft. Since the proposals that were received do not essentially introduce any changes in principle and meaning into the articles of the draft, the Constitutional Commission finds it expedient to leave in force the texts set forth in the draft.

The second group includes the proposals that supplement the corresponding articles of the draft of the constitution, make more precise and improve their formulation and content.

During the public discussion of the draft of the fundamental law of the republic at the meetings of workers and sessions of the local soviets, numerous proposals were expressed on a fundamental improvement in the public services and amenities of the cities, rural areas and settlements, housing and road construction and transport work. The existence of major shortcomings and omissions in these matters was rightfully noted.

You all well know the great attention paid by the Communist Party and the Soviet State to these problems, which are of great social significance. During the years of Soviet authority, particularly during the last three five-year plans, a great deal of work has been done in the republic in this direction. Today the scale and rates of this work have greatly increased.

We all realize, however, the concern that is manifested in the statements and wishes of the workers. They are directed toward even further reinforcing state order in this public matter.

Bearing in mind all the importance of these problems for our socio-economic policy and for a further rise in the people's well-being, it would be expedient to raise them to the constitutional level so that they may be correspondingly reflected in the republic's fundamental law.

In accordance with the proposals of the workers, the Constitutional Commission considers it possible, in Article 70 of the section, "The National-State and Administrative-Territorial Structure of the Armenian SSR," of the draft of the constitution to specify in addition a formulation on state management of the housing construction, public services and amenities of the cities and other population centers, road construction and transport.

All the deputies have the text recommended by the Constitutional Commission of the supplement to Subsection 11 of Article 70 of the draft.

Numerous proposals were received on supplementing Article 103 of the draft. The comrades suggest that by resolution of the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR or the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR, in necessary cases, not only the drafts of the laws of the Armenian SSR be submitted for public discussion, but also certain important problems of the state life of the republic.

This supplement actually stems from the democratic principles of our state, greatly emphasizes its public nature and demonstrates the political maturity and social activeness of the citizens.

The Constitutional Commission also regards it as expedient to supplement Article 120, noting that the Presidium of the Council of Ministers of the republic includes: the chairman of the Council of Ministers, the first deputy chairman, deputy chairmen and other members of the government in accordance with the law on the Council of Ministers of the republic. The law on the Council of Ministers of the Armenian SSR will be drafted after the constitution is adopted.

At the sessions of city, rayon, settlement and rural soviets of deputies, proposals were introduced that Article 132 of the section, "Local Organs of State Authority and Administration in the Armenian SSR," of the draft of the constitution be considerably expanded and emphasize the importance of broad involvement of the citizens in the work of the permanent committees of the local soviets and their participation in discussing the most important problems and development of the social independence of the population.

Similar proposals were also expressed by the citizens on the pages of the press.

These proposals merit serious attention and emphasize more clearly the democratic principles of the work of the soviets of people's deputies, namely: broad involvement of the workers in administration of state and social affairs, ensuring and expanding the publicity, constant consideration of public opinion in the work, etc.

The Constitutional Commission considers it right to adopt these proposals and recommends that Article 132 be worded as follows: "Article 132. The local soviets of people's deputies carry out their work in close connection with the social organizations and work collectives, submit the most important problems for the citizens' discussion, involve them in the work of the permanent commissions, executive committees and others accountable to the Soviet organs, direct the work of the local voluntary societies and develop social independence of the population."

In the course of the public discussion there was a broad exchange of opinions on the democratic principles of the work of the soviets, their session work and the work of the permanent commissions of the soviets. The overwhelming majority of these opinions and proposals have already been taken into consideration in the draft of the fundamental law. In addition to this, however, as is proposed by the participants in the discussion, Article 147, which speaks of the procedure for submitting to the Supreme Soviet the republic's State Budget and for its discussion, should define the functions of the appropriate permanent commissions of the Supreme Soviet.

Because of this, the Constitutional Commission finds it expedient to note in this article of the draft of the constitution that the State Budget of the Armenian SSR is examined by the Supreme Soviet according to a report of the Council of Ministers of the Armenian SSR and the conclusion of the Planned Budget and other permanent commissions of the Supreme Soviet. In other words, the fundamental law should secure what is already being implemented in the practical work of the higher organ of the republic's state authority. All the deputies also have the recommended text of this supplement.

A large group of proposals and comments on the draft of the constitution is of a purely editorial nature. Over 100 of these proposals were received. Most of them were taken into consideration.

The Constitutional Commission also examined proposals that Article 78 of the section, "The National-State and Administrative-Territorial Structure of the Armenian SSR" not enumerate the cities under republic jurisdiction and the rayons of the republic, and write that the Armenian SSR has rayons and cities under republic jurisdiction. These proposals are motivated by the fact that, with the expansion or division of the existing rayons and the conversion of cities from rayon to republic jurisdiction, there would be no need to introduce the corresponding changes into the constitution.

The commission feels that introducing the names of the rayons and cities under republic jurisdiction in the fundamental law will be a restraining factor for certain workers who have a flippant attitude toward changes in the administrative-territorial division of the republic. We must bear in mind that a change in the rayons and the establishing on this basis of new rayons, as well as transference of the jurisdiction of cities, is quite a serious and crucial matter. It involves complex economic, socio-cultural and administrative-managerial problems. One should not be lured into this. It must be said that the tradition established is not entirely a good one. In some cases, haste and obvious lack of justification have been shown in this matter. The necessary changes can and must be introduced only when they are dictated by the objective conditions of life and socio-economic development.

The Constitutional Commission also regarded as inexpedient the adoption of a number of other proposals, which are by nature unacceptable or do not correspond in their significance to a state document such as the fundamental law of the republic.

Comrades! During the discussion of the draft of the new constitution at the meetings of working collectives, as well as by individual citizens, just criticisms were expressed of the shortcomings in various spheres of work in industry, construction, agriculture, consumer service, trade, transport, etc. Measures were proposed to improve the work of the state organs of administration and the social organizations. Many statements indicated that the struggle should be intensified against malicious violators of state and labor discipline, and against antisocial, negative phenomena and their bearers--antipodes of the very essence of our socialist way of life.

It should be reported to the Supreme Soviet that the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee Plenum held yesterday instructed all the party and state organs and social organizations to make a careful examination of these proposals and specific warning signals and to work out and adopt the necessary measures for further improvement of the work of the party and state organs and the social organizations, extremely rapid elimination of the shortcomings in all spheres of our vital activity, raising the level of organization and discipline everywhere and intensification of the struggle against negative phenomena.

These are the main problems, comrade deputies, that the Constitutional Commission considered it necessary to report to the Supreme Soviet of the republic in connection with the public discussion of the draft of the new Constitution of the Armenian SSR.

For thousands of workers the public discussion of the draft of the constitution was a great political school. It aroused in the people new creative forces and a new upsurge in the struggle to put into practice the historic resolutions of the 25th CPSU Congress.

The republic's workers successfully completed the first quarter of the shock year of the five-year plan. The plan for sales of industrial products was fulfilled by 102.1 percent. The rise in the product volume as compared with the corresponding period last year was 8.1 percent. The quality of the goods produced also improved. The republic is now producing over 1300 items with the State Seal of Quality, the relative proportion of which in the total production volume is about 11 percent.

The livestock are successfully completing the winter period at the kolkhozes and goskhozes. As compared with the same period last year, in the first quarter of 1978 the cattle and poultry population has increased considerably and the livestock breeding productivity has risen. The quarter plan for the sale of milk and meat to the state was overfulfilled by 7.3-8.5 percent. The spring field work has begun and is successfully being carried out at the farms, and a firm basis is being laid for this year's harvest.

The workers of other sectors of the national economy, science, culture and art are working with great enthusiasm.

Our most important duty is to secure the labor and political upsurge of the workers, brought forth by the new constitutions of the USSR and Armenian SSR, and to develop on a still broader scale socialist competition for the successful fulfillment of the plan for economic and social development of the republic for 1978 and the plans for the five-year plan as a whole and for the utmost increase in production efficiency and rise in the quality of the work in all sectors of the national economy.

The fulfillment of the resolutions of the 25th CPSU Congress and the assignments for the socio-economic development of the country in the Tenth Five-Year Plan, and the further mobilization of the communists and all the workers to improve the situation in various spheres of our work will be furthered to a great extent by implementation of the purposeful advice and instructions that were expressed by Comrade L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, during his talks and speeches at the working collectives, as well as at the party-economic aktiws of a number of krays and oblasts on his trip through the eastern regions of the country.

These talks and speeches are further convincing evidence of the great and consistent work carried out by Lenin's party for the economic development of the country of the Soviets, reinforcement of its defense ability and further rise in the well-being of the Soviet people and the international prestige of our great native land.

Comrades and deputies!

The discussion of the draft of the constitution has once again shown the soundness and life-giving quality of the unity of the working class, the kolkhoz peasantry and the national intelligentsia of the republic. It has

once again shown the close unity of the Armenian people and all the workers of Soviet Armenia around the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and its Leninist Central Committee.

The constitution will exert an extremely profound, beneficial effect on all aspects of life in our republic. Each article of it, each provision of it and the ideas and principles will enter our reality and vital practical work and will contribute to solving the vast problems of building communism.

Permit me, respected comrade deputies, to express the firm certainty that the Supreme Soviet, having discussed the draft of the fundamental law, will adopt the new Constitution of the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic, which will open a new, brilliant page in the life of the Armenian people and the workers of the republic. The republic's workers will inscribe on it new labor accomplishments in the name of the common cause of the peoples of the USSR--the triumph of the communist society.

(The report by Comrade K.S. Demirchyan was listened to with great attentiveness and repeatedly interrupted by bursts of applause.)

Final Version

Yerevan KOMMUNIST in Russian 15 Apr 78 pp 1-4

[Excerpts] Article 72. The state language of the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic is the Armenian language.

The Armenian SSR implements the state concern for the utmost development of the Armenian language and ensures its use in state and social organs, in institutions of culture, education and other institutions.

In the Armenian SSR free use is ensured in these organs and institutions of the Russian and other languages used by the population.

No privileges or restrictions in the use of any languages are permitted.

Article 104. The laws of the Armenian SSR, decrees and other acts of the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR are published in the Armenian, Russian and Azerbaijani languages, signed by the Chairman and Secretary of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR.

Article 157. Judicial proceedings are conducted in the Armenian language or in the language of the majority of the population of the given locality. Those persons taking part in the proceedings who do not have a command of the language in which the judicial proceedings are being conducted are ensured the right to become fully familiar with the materials of the proceedings and to participate in the legal actions through an interpreter, and the right to speak in court in the native language.

IX. Coat of Arms, Flag, Anthem and Capital of the Armenian SSR

Article 166. The state coat of arms of the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic is a depiction of Great and Little Ararat, above which are placed a hammer and sickle in a five-pointed star, surrounded by the rays of the sun; at the foot of the mountains is a grapevine with a cluster of grapes and leaves, and at the right and left are ears of wheat. Around the coat of arms, on the fields, is the inscription: [Short passage in Armenian script follows], and below, against the red background, is an inscription in the Armenian and Russian languages: "Proletarians of All Countries, Unite!"

Article 167. The state flag of the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic is a rectangular red panel with a blue stripe in the middle running the entire length of the flag. The blue stripe is one-fourth the width of the flag. On the upper red section of the panel of the flag, near the staff, are depicted a gold hammer and sickle, and above them is a red five-pointed star, framed by a gold border. The ratio of the width of the flag to its length is 1:2.

Article 168. The state anthem of the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic is approved by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR.

Article 169. The capital of the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic is the city of Yerevan.

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MATERIALS ON GEORGIAN HANDLING OF LANGUAGE ISSUE

Draft Provisions

Tbilisi ZARYA VOSTOKA in Russian 24 Mar 78 pp 1-4

[Excerpts] Article 75. The Georgian SSR ensures the use in state and social organs, cultural and other institutions of the Georgian language, and implements the state concern for its utmost development.

In the Georgian SSR, on the basis of equality, free use is ensured in all these organs and institutions of the Russian language, as well as of other languages used by the population.

No privileges or restrictions in the use of any languages are permitted.

Article 110. The laws of the Georgian SSR, decrees and other acts of the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR are published in the Georgian and Russian languages, and for autonomous republics and an autonomous oblast--also in the language of the autonomous republic and autonomous oblast, signed by the Chairman and Secretary of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR.

X. Coat of Arms, Flag, Anthem and Capital of the Georgian SSR

Article 180. The state coat of arms of the Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic is a circle, in the upper part of which, against a red background, is depicted a luminous five-pointed star with rays emanating from it; below is a light blue snow-covered mountain range with a snowy summit emerging in the middle; in the lower part of the circle are depicted: at the right--a gold vine with a cluster of grapes, and at the left--three gold ears of grain, and the ends of the ears and the vine are interwoven near the lower edge of the circle; the large part in the middle is taken up with a depiction of a gold hammer and sickle, which rest against: at the top--the emanating rays of the star, at the bottom--the peak of the mountain range, and along the sides--the ears of grain and the vine; under the hammer and sickle is the inscription "GSSR" in the Georgian and the

Russian languages; the circle is framed by a border with a design made of Georgian ornaments, in the inner ring of which, against a white background, is placed an inscription, divided by two small stars, in two languages--Georgian and Russian: "Proletarians of All Countries, Unite!"

Article 181. The state flag of the Georgian SSR is a rectangular red panel. The ratio of the width to the length is 1:2. In the upper corner near the staff is a light blue square, the side of which is equal to half the length of the flag. In the middle of the square is a circle, the radius of which is equal to one-third the side of the square. In the circle are a hammer and sickle, and above it is a five-pointed star, with 24 rays diverging from the circle to the sides of the square. The sickle, hammer, star and rays are red. A light blue stripe goes from the middle of the right side of the square along the entire length of the flag, with the width one-third the side of the square.

Article 182. The state anthem of the Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic is approved by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR.

Article 183. The capital of the Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic is the city of Tbilisi.

Central Committee Decree

Tbilisi ZARYA VOSTOKA in Russian 26 Mar 78 p 1

[Decree of the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee, date not indicated:
"On the Tasks of the Organizational and Political Work of the Party
Organizations of Georgia Related to the Publishing of the Draft of the New
Constitution of the Georgian SSR"]

[Text] In connection with the publishing of the draft of the new Constitution of the Georgian SSR, the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee adopted a decree which notes that the publication of the draft of the new Constitution (Fundamental Law) of the Georgian SSR is an event of tremendous state and political importance, bringing about an exceptionally high patriotic and labor upsurge of the working class, the kolkhoz peasantry and the intelligentsia of the republic.

The draft of the new Constitution (Fundamental Law) of the Georgian SSR was worked out on the basis of and in accordance with the USSR Constitution--the Fundamental Law of a society of developed socialism--and conforms with the interests, aspirations and hopes of the citizens of Soviet Georgia and thoroughly guarantees their rights and defines their duties.

The draft of the fundamental law of the republic is the result of a great deal of laborious work, analysis and summarization of the profound changes that have taken place in Soviet Georgia since the adoption of the presently existing Constitution of the Georgian SSR, and of our country's constitutional experience.

The very first article of the draft proclaims that the Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic is a socialist national state, expressing the will and the interests of the workers, peasants and intelligentsia and the workers of all nations and nationalities of the republic.

The chief direction of the new content of the draft is the broadening and deepening of socialist democracy. There is further development of the democratic principles of the formation and work of the soviets and the intensification of their role in solving the most important problems in the life of society is specified.

As compared with the constitution now in effect, the draft contains a number of new chapters, including the chapter, "Social Development and Culture," in which it is pointed out that the state is contributing to the intensification of the social uniformity of society--to erasing class differences and the essential differences between urban and rural areas and mental and physical labor, to the all-round development and rapprochement of all the nations and nationalities of the USSR.

Implementation of the rights and freedoms is inseparable from the citizens' execution of their duties. The draft proclaims that the citizens of the Georgian SSR are obliged to work conscientiously, to take care of and consolidate socialist property, to defend the socialist native land, to reinforce the friendship of nations and nationalities of the Soviet multination state, to be concerned about the education of their children and to refuse to be reconciled to antisocial behavior. He is called upon to contribute to the development of friendship and collaboration with the peoples of other countries and to the support and consolidation of world peace.

The draft, under constitutional procedure, makes secure the state concern for the development of the Georgian language.

Work on the draft of the new constitution was done on the basis of the principle of continuity, due to which it retains many of the provisions in principle that today too correspond to our system and to the nature of the development of the Soviet society.

Warmly approving the draft of the Constitution of the Georgian SSR and the wise Leninist national policy of the Communist Party, the workers express full readiness to do everything to successfully fulfill the state planned assignments of the third year of the Tenth Five-Year Plan, to increase the efficiency and improve the quality of the work, are taking on new, higher socialist commitments and express sincere gratitude to the CPSU Central Committee, its Politburo and personally to Comrade L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Council of Ministers for his invaluable contribution to implementing the plans of communist construction and for the concern for the Georgian SSR, just as for all the union republics of our country.

In noting the historic significance of submitting the draft of the new Constitution of the Georgian SSR for public discussion, the Bureau of the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee in its decree commissioned the obkoms, gorkoms and raykoms of the Georgian Communist Party and the primary party organizations, in conjunction with the soviet, trade union and Komsomol organizations, to develop active propagandist and mass political work to explain to each worker the essence and political significance of the draft of the new constitution of the republic, each of its provisions and articles, using for this the rich experience accumulated in the course of the public discussion of the draft of the USSR Constitution.

All media of oral and press propaganda--the entire system of party and Komsomol political enlightenment, economic education, lecture propaganda, agitational mass work, visual agitation, the press, television and radio are to be subordinated to the tasks of bringing to each worker the provisions in principle and the conclusions of the draft of the Constitution of the Georgian SSR.

Maximally broad, free, truly businesslike and public discussion of the draft of the new Constitution of the Georgian SSR is to be ensured at meetings of collectives of workers and at the citizens' places of residence, as well as at the plenums of the party gorkoms, raykoms and obkoms and the sessions of the soviets of people's deputies of the workers of rayons, cities and oblasts in the republic.

Work activity of the collectives of industrial enterprises, transport, construction projects, kolkhozes and sovkhozes is to be directed toward securing and increasing the progress achieved, further increase in social production efficiency, efficient use of the available capacities and wide-scale practical incorporation of the achievements of advanced experience, science and technology.

The labor, social and political activity of the workers, kolkhoz workers and intelligentsia is to be heightened to put into effect the resolutions of the CPSU Central Committee December (1977) Plenum and the provisions and conclusions contained in the speech of L.I. Brezhnev at this plenum and to solve the problems advanced in the Letter of the CPSU Central Committee, USSR Council of Ministers, All-Union Central Trade Union Council and the Central Committee of the All-Union Lenin Young Communist League and in the resolutions of the 8th and 9th plenums of the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee.

A broad and thorough demonstration of the achievements of the workers of Georgia and the entire Soviet Union in communist construction, a steady rise in material well-being and the cultural level of the workers is to be put into the foreground in the propagandist and all ideological work.

The guiding role of the Communist Party in creating the first socialist state in the world and ensuring the full and conclusive victory of socialism and the building in our country of a society of developed socialism is to be shown more vividly.

There is to be consistent propagandizing of the humane nature of the Soviet State, which has placed above everything else the interests of the workers and the interests of all the people, the nature of the socialist way of life is to be revealed, and the inhumane nature of the capitalist system, the lack of true guarantees of rights and freedoms of the individual under the conditions of a bourgeois society are to be exposed in well-reasoned arguments.

It is suggested that the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR, the Council of Ministers of the Georgian SSR, the presidiums of the supreme soviets and councils of ministers of the autonomous republics, the ispolkom of Yugo-Osetinskaya Oblast, ispolkoms, city, rayon, settlement and rural soviets of people's deputies adopt all measures to ensure public discussion of the draft of the Constitution of the Georgian SSR on a high organizational and political level.

There must be a guarantee of undeviating adherence to the constitutional norms, further development, improvement and intensification of the democratic principles in the work of the Soviet organs, expansion and reinforcement of the relations with the masses and widespread attraction of the workers to active and direct participation in the work of the representative organs.

The Central Committee of the Georgian Communist Party has expressed the firm certainty that the public discussion of the draft of the new Constitution of the Georgian SSR will become another vivid testimony of the monolithic solidarity of the workers of Georgia in support of the Communist Party, its Leninist Central Committee and the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee, headed by the eminent son of the party and the people, L.I. Brezhnev; an incentive for the successful fulfillment of all the plans and high socialist commitments for 1978 and for a decisive improvement in the entire moral and political situation in the republic.

Constitutional Commission

Tbilisi ZARYA VOSTOKA in Russian 14 Apr 78 p 1 LD

[GRUZINFORM report: "At the Republic Constitutional Commission"]

[Excerpts] The Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet Commission To Prepare the Draft of the Georgian SSR Constitution met on 13 April. It discussed the question "Of the Results of the Commission's Work and the Draft of the Constitution of the Georgian SSR With the Proposals and Amendments That Have Been Received in the Course of the Public Discussion."

The report at the session was delivered by E.A. Shevardnadze, first secretary of the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee and chairman of the Commission To Prepare the Draft of the Constitution of the Georgian SSR.

The session noted that the draft of the new Constitution of the Georgian SSR, published for public discussion, is in complete accordance with the USSR Constitution and reflects national and other features of the people's development and the progress achieved by its workers since the adoption of the current fundamental law of the Georgian SSR. The draft reflects questions of state building and the provisions and conclusions contained in the decisions of CPSU congresses, resolutions of the CPSU Central Committee and its plenums and the works of Comrade L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

The party and soviet organs and trade union, Komsomol and other social organizations have done a great deal of organizational and ideological work on widespread propaganda of the ideas and principles of the draft of the new Constitution of the Georgian SSR and on the free, widespread and businesslike discussion of each of its provisions and each of its clauses.

The press, television and radio, publishing houses, propagandists, agitation and political information workers, lecturers and speakers have done a great deal to propagandize and explain the provisions of the draft of the constitution and to promote its public discussion.

The public discussion of the draft of the Georgian SSR Constitution has become a stirring demonstration of the high political activity of the republic's workers. The workers have once again demonstrated their monolithic solidarity around the CPSU Central Committee and Politburo, headed by Comrade L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

There have been over 28,000 meetings of party, trade union and Komsomol organizations and workers' collectives to discuss the draft of the Constitution of the Georgian SSR and party committee plenums and Supreme Soviet sessions in the Abkhazskaya ASSR and Adzharskaya ASSR, the Yugo-Osetinskaya Oblast Soviet and city, rayon, rural and settlement soviets, attended by about 3 million people. At these meetings the workers unanimously approved and supported the draft of the Georgian SSR Constitution.

The chief political result of the public discussion of the draft of the Constitution of the Georgian SSR is that all the citizens of our republic freely, widely and comprehensively discussed the draft and unanimously stated that they fully approved the republic's draft of the fundamental law.

In the course of the discussion the commission has received about 350,000 proposals in which citizens approve the republic's draft of the constitution as a whole, and its individual chapters and clauses. The commission has also received several thousand proposals and comments on individual clauses in the draft.

The session noted that the new draft of the Georgian Constitution, prepared in accordance with the USSR Constitution and taking into account the specific

features of the republic, is a new and significant stage in the constitutional development of the Georgian SSR and correctly reflects the level of social and political development reached in the republic, expresses the wishes and interests of the workers and all the workers [as published] in our republic and takes into account the proposals made in the course of the truly public and free discussion of the draft of the new Constitution of the Georgian SSR.

The commission decided to approve the draft of the Constitution (Fundamental Law) of the Georgian SSR, with the clarifications, additions and amendments made in accordance with the results of its public discussion.

Supreme Soviet

Tbilisi ZARYA VOSTOKA in Russian 14 Apr 78 p 1

[Article: "Meeting of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR"]

[Text] A meeting of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR was held on 13 April, under the chairmanship of P.G. Gilashvili, chairman of the Presidium of the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet. Discussed at the meeting was a report made by E.A. Shevardnadze, chairman of the Commission To Prepare the Draft of the Constitution (Fundamental Law) of the Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic and first secretary of the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee, on the results of the public discussion of the draft of the Constitution of the Georgian SSR and the proposals that had been received in the course of this discussion.

The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR noted with satisfaction the high political and work activeness of the republic's citizens that was shown in the course of the discussion of the draft of the republic's fundamental law. In its decree the presidium noted that the Commission To Prepare the Draft of the Constitution (Fundamental Law) of the Georgian SSR had done a great deal of work to develop the draft of the Constitution (Fundamental Law) of the Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic, and to analyze and summarize the proposals and comments submitted in the course of its public discussion in the republic, and had incorporated into the draft the necessary changes and additions.

Speaking at the meeting were D.D. Diasamidze, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Adzhar ASSR, A.D. Zurabashvili, director of the Scientific Research Institute of Psychiatry imeni M. Asatiani of the Georgian SSR Ministry of Health and academician of the Georgian SSR Academy of Sciences and D.N. Dvalishvili, first secretary of the Makharadzevskiy Raykom of the Georgian Communist Party.

The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR approved the draft of the Constitution (Fundamental Law) of the Georgian SSR, submitted by the

commission, and made more precise and supplemented in consideration of the proposals received in the course of its public discussion in the republic. The draft is being submitted for the examination of the extraordinary 7th Session of the 9th Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR.

Problems involved in holding the next session of the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR and other problems were solved at the meeting of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR.

Central Committee Plenum

Tbilisi ZARYA VOSTOKA in Russian 15 Apr 78 p 1

[Article: "Information Report on the Plenum of the Central Committee of the Georgian Communist Party"; for Georgian Communist Party First Secretary Shevardnadze's 14 April report to the Georgian Supreme Soviet and subsequent remarks, see JPRS 71036, 28 April 1978, of this series, pp 1-27]

[Text] The 10th Plenum of the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee was held on 14 April 1978.

The plenum listened to a report by Comrade E.A. Shevardnadze, chairman of the Commission of the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR To Prepare the Draft of the New Constitution of the Georgian SSR and first secretary of the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee, "On the Draft of the Constitution (Fundamental Law) of the Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Results of Its Public Discussion."

The Plenum of the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee adopted, in accordance with the report of Comrade E.A. Shevardnadze, the decree which is published in the press.

Comrade V.M. Siradze spoke at the plenum with information on the text of the anthem of the Georgian SSR.

Taking part in the work of the plenum were Comrade V.I. Brovikov, deputy chief of the Division of Party-Organizational Work of the CPSU Central Committee, and Comrade V.V. Vasil'yev, deputy chief of the sector of the CPSU Central Committee.

On the Draft of the Constitution (Fundamental Law) of the Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Results of Its Public Discussion. Decree of the 10th Plenum of the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee, Adopted on 14 April 1978

1. The report of Comrade E.A. Shevardnadze, first secretary of the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee and chairman of the Commission To Prepare

the Draft of the New Constitution of the Georgian SSR, "On the Draft of the Constitution (Fundamental Law) of the Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Results of Its Public Discussion" is to be wholly and fully approved.

2. The draft of the Constitution (Fundamental Law) of the Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic, submitted by the commission, with the additions, clarifications and amendments incorporated in it according to the results of the public discussion is to be generally approved. The draft of the constitution is to be submitted for the examination of the extraordinary 8th Session of the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR.

Comrade E.A. Shevardnadze, first secretary of the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee and chairman of the Commission To Prepare the Draft of the New Constitution of the Georgian SSR is instructed to give a report on the draft of the constitution and the results of its public discussion at the session of the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR.

3. The party and soviet organs, ministries and departments, trade union, Komsomol and other social organizations are to examine attentively all the proposals and comments of the workers received in the course of the public discussion of the draft of the Constitution of the Georgian SSR on improving the work in specific sectors of state, economic and cultural building and to adopt the necessary measures for their practical implementation.

Final Version

Tbilisi ZARYA VOSTOKA in Russian 16 Apr 78 pp 2-5

[Excerpts] Article 75. The state language of the Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic is the Georgian language.

The Georgian SSR implements the state concern for the utmost development of the Georgian language and ensures its use in state and social organs, institutions of culture, education and other institutions.

In the Georgian SSR free use is ensured in these organs and institutions of the Russian and other languages which are used by the population. No privileges or restrictions in the use of any languages are permitted.

Article 110. The laws of the Georgian SSR, decrees and other acts of the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR are published in the Georgian and Russian languages, and for the autonomous republics and autonomous oblast-- also in the language of the autonomous republic and autonomous oblast, signed by the Chairman and Secretary of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR.

X. Coat of Arms, Flag, Anthem and Capital of the Georgian SSR

Article 180. The state coat of arms of the Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic is a circle, in the upper part of which, against a red background, is depicted a luminous five-pointed star with rays diverging from it; below is a light blue snow-covered mountain range with a snowy summit emerging in the middle; in the lower part of the circle are depicted: at the right--a gold vine with a cluster of grapes, and at the left--three gold ears of grain, and the ends of the ears and the vine are interwoven near the lower edge of the circle: the large part in the middle is taken up with a depiction of a gold hammer and sickle, which rest against: at the top--the diverging rays of the star, at the bottom--the peak of the mountain range and along the sides--the ears and the vine: under the hammer and sickle is the inscription: [Short passage in Georgian script follows]: the circle is framed by a border with a design made of Georgian ornaments, in the inner ring of which, against a white background, is placed an inscription, divided by two small stars, in two languages--Georgian and Russian: "Proletarians of All Countries, Unite!"

Article 181. The state flag of the Georgian SSR is a rectangular red panel. The ratio of the width to the length is 1:2. In the upper corner near the staff is a light blue square, the side of which is equal to half the width of the flag. In the middle of the square is a circle, the radius of which is equal to one-third the side of the square. In the circle are a hammer and sickle, and above it is a five-pointed star, with 24 rays diverging from the circle to the sides of the square. The sickle, hammer, star and rays are red. A light blue stripe goes from the middle of the right side of the square along the entire length of the flag, with the width one-third the side of the square.

Article 182. The state anthem of the Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic is approved by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR.

Article 183. The capital of the Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic is the city of Tbilisi.

Deputies on Language

[Editorial Report LD] Tbilisi ZARYA VOSTOKA in Russian on 18 April 1978 publishes on pages 2 and 3 a 10,000-word GRUZINFORM report on the speeches delivered by deputies at the extraordinary 8th session of the Georgian Supreme Soviet under the heading "Fundamental Law of the Life of the Workers of Soviet Georgia." The report quotes Deputy Zh.K. Shartava as stating:

"The Constitutional Commission has done everything to strengthen the integral bond between the draft of our constitution and the USSR Constitution, providing elements in it which are specific to the republic and our people's national color, a graphic confirmation of which is Article 75--the article about language."

The speech by Deputy G.K. Natroshvili includes the following passage:

"A subject for our special pride is our native language, which the constitution has proclaimed as the state language. This is the Georgian people's greatest resource, concern for the development of which is promoted to the rank of a constitutional task.

"Of course, according to our best international traditions, we must treat with the greatest respect the languages of our fraternal peoples and the language of the great Russian people, the language of Pushkin and Lenin, and this proposition is also reflected in the Georgian Constitution. So it has always been for us, and all the more so now that the Georgian people are living in the fraternal family of peoples of a great country, are full members of this family and are building a new life together with all of them."

The report notes that Deputy M.G. Fokaidi's speech contains the following passage:

"The constitution enshrines in legislation the paths of the further consolidation of the working people's international fraternity.

"The duty of every citizen of the Georgian SSR is to respect the national dignity of other citizens and to strengthen the friendship of the nations and nationalities of the Soviet multinational state; Article 66 of the draft of the Georgian SSR Constitution proclaims: Citizens of the Georgian SSR, and it is a multinational republic, are ardent patriots and internationalists and without sparing their efforts they are laboring for the benefit of their republic and entire country.

"The sense of belonging to a single family and of being members of an international fraternity gladdens us, the builders of communism. Side by side, like brothers and sisters, Georgians, Russians, Ukrainians, Abkhazians, Ossets, Armenians, Azerbaijanis and representatives of other nationalities are working under the sun of our socialist motherland. They are united by common aims and interests and the ideas of communism."

Deputy T.D. Tserstvadze's speech states:

"Our children are guaranteed free education in their native language and in any language of the peoples of our great motherland."

Editorial

Tbilisi ZARYA VOSTOKA in Russian 18 Apr 78 p 1 LD

[Editorial: "The Republic's Fundamental Law"]

[Text] These days have been marked by great events in the life of our country and the republic: the CPSU Central Committee May Day slogans for 1978

have been published and on 15 April 1978 the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR, on behalf of the entire people of Soviet Georgia and for the sake of their happiness and prosperity, approved and adopted the new Constitution (Fundamental Law) of the Georgian SSR. These historic documents have given rise to a new wave of nationwide enthusiasm and the republic's workers are embarking on their labor duty shift in honor of May Day and preparing to hold the Leninist communist slobotnik to a high standard. They wholeheartedly approve the republic's new constitution which, following the USSR Fundamental Law, has come into force and is living, working and acting.

The main law of our developed socialist society is the USSR Constitution, the elaboration and adoption of which the Soviet people rightly link with the name of Comrade Leonid Il'ich Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

The Constitution of the Georgian SSR contains as its basis the ideas and principles of the union fundamental law. At the same time it takes into account the historically shaped features of the republic, and the accumulated experience of the national-state structure. The practical implementation of the provisions formulated in the Georgian SSR Constitution is designed to promote the successful solution of the most important task set by the party --the further expansion and intensification of socialist democracy and the development of a high level of political culture in each citizen of the republic.

The adoption of the new Constitution of the Georgian SSR will promote the consolidation of the friendship of the workers of all nations and nationalities living on its territory and the strengthening of the fraternal unity of the peoples comprising the great and mighty Soviet Union.

"The Georgian SSR," the preamble to our new constitution states, "is an equal republic within the USSR which personifies the state unity of the Soviet people and rallies all nations and nationalities for the joint building of communism." This provision is a concentrated expression of the historic path covering almost 60 years traveled by Soviet Georgia together with the entire country along the path of socialist and communist building, and it reflects the fact that Soviet Georgia is an inseparable part of the single and mighty Soviet Union created by the will of all peoples inhabiting our country, headed by the great Russian people.

The new Georgian SSR Constitution proclaims the Communist Party is the leading and guiding force and nucleus of all state and public organizations. This provision has included all the love and gratitude which our people feel for the CPSU created by the great Lenin--the mind, honor and conscience of our era. Again and again in these historic days we have recalled the wonderful words of Comrade L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, to the effect that Soviet people know that where there are difficulties, there the communists are ahead, that come what may the communists will not let them down, and that where the party is, there is success and victory.

The republic's new fundamental law proceeds from the premise that the further development of democracy is the natural law of mature socialism and is the mainline of the republic's development and of the development of the entire Soviet political system. It is based on Lenin's teaching on democratic centralism and socialist legality and shows clearly the mechanism of the implementation of socialist democracy. A tremendous role in this process is allocated to the Soviet trade unions and Leninist Komosmol.

The new Constitution of the Georgian SSR regards the economy of Soviet Georgia as a component of the single national economic complex which has formed in the USSR and it closely links the growth and development of the economy with the conservation of nature and the rational use of natural resources, and regards state ownership as the main form of socialist ownership, taking into account here the features of kolkhoz and cooperative ownership. The activity of the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee in recent years has been promoting the rapprochement of forms of socialist ownership and its conservation as the foundation for the steady growth of the workers' well-being--that is why the categorical demand of the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee 8th Plenum, with respect to intensifying the struggle against negative phenomena and against the squandering of the people's wealth has something in common with the constitutional provision concerning the intolerability of using socialist property for the purpose of personal enrichment. The republic's fundamental law regards labor income as the basis of private property. Free socialist labor is proclaimed by our new constitution as the source of public wealth and the material and cultural well-being of the people and of each citizen and worker, and labor is legalized as a criterion of man's social position.

The Georgian SSR Constitution, like the USSR Constitution, pays great attention to the foundations of the state's social policy. It is guided by the proposition that the indestructible alliance of the working class, kolkhoz peasantry and intelligentsia is the social basis of the Soviet Union and consequently of Soviet Georgia, while the CPSU program demand for the building of a classless society is the main avenue for the activity of our state. The party's slogan--"Everything for the Sake of Man, Everything for the Benefit of Man!"--runs through our entire new fundamental law, which guarantees the all-round development of the individual.

The republic's new constitution is imbued with the spirit of internationalism, Soviet patriotism, and the Leninist friendship of the peoples. Internationalism is one of the greatest gains of the Soviet people, and we must cherish it as something precious to us.

The republic's fundamental law invests the citizens of the Georgian SSR with the broadest rights and freedoms and guarantees the possibility of their full and effective implementation. The right to work, the right to leisure, the right to education, the right to safeguarding health, the right to housing and the right to social security are natural features of

the socialist way of life.. At the same time, the fundamental law discusses citizens' rights and freedoms in indissoluble dialectical unity with their duties, the main one of which is the duty to work honestly and conscientiously in the citizen's chosen sphere of socially useful activity. The strict adherence to socialist discipline, a solicitous attitude toward the possessions of all the people, respect for the individual and implacability toward everything which contradicts the socialist way of life and its moral and ethical standards--all these are most essential features of the citizen of the developed socialist society and our new constitution formulates these provisions absolutely clearly.

The discussion of the new Georgian SSR Constitution continued for over 2 weeks in our republic, and over 3 million workers--virtually the entire adult population of the republic--took part in this discussion. They unanimously approved the draft of the republic's constitution. This eloquently attests to the citizens' high political activity and the monolithic consolidation of the workers of Soviet Georgia around the CPSU Central Committee and its Politburo, headed by Comrade L.I. Brezhnev. The main political conclusion which may be drawn from the results of the public discussion of the draft of the republic's fundamental law consists of the fact that the working class, kolkhoz peasantry, intelligentsia and youth of the republic have reaffirmed their profound devotion to Lenin's party and their support for its domestic and foreign policy and loyalty to the ideals of communism. The course of the discussion of the draft of the constitution showed that the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee course toward the further accelerated boosting of the republic's economy, the all-round consolidation of socialist discipline, and the eradication of negative phenomena which still occur in our life have become truly nationwide in our republic.

There is pride in the heart of every one of us, caused by the fact that the adoption of the new Georgian Constitution is a bright festival for all the inhabitants of the republic--Georgians and Russians, Abkhazians and Ossets, Armenians and Azerbaijanis, Greeks and Jews.... The traditional internationalism of our republic, the age-old friendship of all the nations and nationalities living in the republic and the sense of blood relationships and good neighborliness are convincingly reaffirmed in these days of celebration.

Our new constitution has come into effect.

This does not mean, however, that it will function automatically. The endeavors and efforts of party, state and social organizations and labor collectives and also large-scale and comprehensive measures are necessary to ensure that every article and clause of the republic's fundamental law are embodied in life, serve as living practice and become obligatory for one and all.

It is now very important to publicize the Georgian Constitution extensively in a purposeful and consistent way, involving the most trained and qualified comrades in this most important work. It is very important for every participant in the extraordinary 8th session of the Georgian Supreme Soviet, which adopted the republic's new fundamental law, to become a passionate propagandist of it. Our agitators, political informers and propagandists must search out striking new forms for studying and explaining the republic's new constitution, making creative use of the experience accumulated in the process of studying and explaining the USSR Constitution. Cultural figures in the republic are called on to speak out on this matter. It is particularly important to bring the historic content of our new fundamental law to the notice of the young people, who are embarking on a life illuminated by the new constitution; this work must be pioneered by Komsomol organizations.

Party organizations must study, explain and publicize the Georgian Constitution in close connection with the resolution of current tasks. It is necessary to do everything to ensure that the adoption of the new fundamental law is a powerful stimulus for improving the efficiency and quality of labor.

The Georgian Constitution is living, functioning and working. It is working for communism, and the slogan of the life and activity of each one of us must be:

Be loyal to the party of the great Lenin, your great and invincible Soviet land and its constitution--the basic foundation of the prosperity of every people and every republic;

Strive to increase the contribution of Soviet Georgia to the economic, scientific and political potential of the great motherland;

Be loyal to the constitution of your republic, add to the material and spiritual wealth of Georgia and glorify your own motherland.

These days the CPSU Central Committee slogans for 1 May 1978 have circulated throughout the entire country. They include:

Long live the Soviet Constitution--the Fundamental Law of the World's First Socialist State of All the People!

May Our Constitution Also Inspire Every Citizen to Selfless Labor and Remarkable New Achievements in the Name of the Prosperity of the Native Land and the Victory of Communism!

12151
CSO: 1800

MATERIALS ON AZERBAYDZHAN HANDLING OF LANGUAGE ISSUE

Draft Version

Baku BAKINSKIY RABOCHIY in Russian 24 Mar 78 pp 1-4

[Excerpts] Article 116. The laws of the Azerbaiydzhan SSR, decrees and other acts of the Supreme Soviet of the Azerbaiydzhan SSR, ukases and decrees of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Azerbaiydzhan SSR are published in the Azerbaiydzhani, Russian and Armenian languages, signed by the Chairman and Secretary of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Azerbaiydzhan SSR.

Article 165. Judicial proceedings in the Azerbaiydzhan SSR are conducted in the Azerbaiydzhani language or in the language of the autonomous republic, autonomous oblast or in the language of the majority of the population of the given locality. Those persons taking part in the proceedings who do not have a command of the language in which the judicial proceedings are being conducted are ensured the right to become fully familiar with the materials of the proceedings, and to participate in the legal actions through an interpreter, and the right to speak in court in the native language.

X. Coat of Arms, Flag, Anthem and Capital of the Azerbaiydzhan SSR

Article 177. The state coat of arms of the Azerbaiydzhan Soviet Socialist Republic is a depiction of a hammer and sickle and an oil derrick against a background of a rising sun and framed with a wreath of cotton and ears of grain, with an inscription in the Azerbaiydzhani language: [Short passage in Azerbaiydzhani language follows] and in the Russian language: "Azerbaiydzhan Soviet Socialist Republic," "Proletarians of All Countries, Unite!" In the upper part of the coat of arms is a five-pointed star.

Article 178. The state flag of the Azerbaiydzhan Soviet Socialist Republic is a panel consisting of two horizontal, colored stripes: the upper, red one is three-fourths of the width, and the lower, blue one is one-fourth of the width of the flag, with a depiction in the upper left corner of the red panel, near the staff, of a gold hammer and sickle, and above them, of a red five-pointed star framed in gold. The ratio of the width of the flag to its length is 1:2.

Article 179. The state anthem of the Azerbaiydzhan Soviet Socialist Republic is approved by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Azerbaiydzhan SSR.

Article 180. The capital of the Azerbaiydzhan Soviet Socialist Republic is the city of Baku.

Aliyev, Commission

Baku BAKINSKIY RABOCHIY in Russian 19 Apr 78 p 1 LD

[Unattributed Report: "At the Commission for Preparing the Draft of the Azerbaiydzhan Constitution"]

[Text] A session of the commission for preparing the draft of the Azerbaiydzhan Constitution was held on 18 April under the chairmanship of G.A. Aliyev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, first secretary of the Azerbaiydzhan Communist Party Central Committee and Chairman of the Commission To Prepare the Draft of the Azerbaiydzhan Constitution.

There was a discussion of the results of the commission's work and of the draft of the Azerbaiydzhan Constitution with the proposals and amendments submitted during the public discussion.

The commission approved the draft of the Azerbaiydzhan Constitution (Fundamental Law) with the clarifications, additions and amendments made to it following the outcome of its public discussion. The commission decided to submit the draft of the Azerbaiydzhan Constitution for the examination of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of Azerbaiydzhan for subsequent submission for examination by the extraordinary 7th Session of the 9th Azerbaiydzhan Supreme Soviet.

Aliyev on 'State Language'

Baku BAKINSKIY RABOCHIY in Russian 21 Apr 78 pp 2-4 LD

[Apparent text of 20 April report to Azerbaiydzhan Supreme Soviet session by G.A. Aliyev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, first secretary of the Azerbaiydzhan Communist Party Central Committee and chairman of the Commission To Prepare the Draft of the Azerbaiydzhan Constitution: "On the Draft of the Constitution (Fundamental Law) of the Azerbaiydzhan SSR and the Results of Its Public Discussion"]

[Excerpts] In the course of the public discussion a considerable number of valuable comments, additions, clarifications and amendments were submitted, which contributed to the improvement of the draft. The commission to prepare the draft of the constitution of the republic has instructed me to report on them.

It is deemed advisable to supplement the section entitled "The National-State and Administrative-Territorial Structure of the Azerbaijani SSR" with a special article on language. It is proposed that Article 73 be worded as follows:

"The Azerbaijani language is the state language of the Azerbaijani SSR.

"The Azerbaijani SSR ensures the use of the Azerbaijani language in state and public organs and cultural, educational and other institutions, and displays state concern for its utmost development.

"The free use in all these organs and institutions of Russian and also of other languages used by the population is ensured on the basis of equality in the Azerbaijani SSR.

"No privileges or restrictions in the use of any languages are permitted."

It should be noted that the aforementioned amendments and clarifications to the text of the draft of the constitution of the republic submitted by the commission do not include editorial changes. All these improvements to the text reflect the view of a significantly large number of citizens, since many proposals of coinciding content were expressed at various meetings and in the press in the course of the public discussion.

Aliyev, Editing Commission

Baku BAKINSKIY RABOCHIY in Russian 22 Apr 78 p 1 LD

[AZERINFORM report: "Session of the Editing Commission To Prepare the Final Text of the Draft of the Azerbaijani SSR Constitution"]

[Text] A session of the Editing Commission To Prepare the Final Text of the Draft of the Azerbaijani SSR Constitution (Fundamental Law) took place on 21 April. The session was conducted by Comrade G.A. Aliyev, chairman of the editing commission, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Azerbaijani Communist Party Central Committee.

In his speech Comrade G.A. Aliyev observed that all the deputies who participated in the discussion of the draft of the Azerbaijani SSR Constitution at the session of the Supreme Soviet of the republic unanimously supported the draft of the Fundamental Law of the Azerbaijani SSR and pronounced themselves in favor of its adoption. At the same time, certain speeches contained new suggestions for amplifying and clarifying certain articles.

Having examined these suggestions, the editing commission adopted appropriate recommendations and unanimously decided to submit for examination by the Supreme Soviet of the Azerbaijani SSR the final text of the draft of the Constitution (Fundamental Law) of the Azerbaijani SSR.

Aliyev Remarks

Baku BAKINSKIY RABOCHIY in Russian 22 Apr 78 pp 1-3 LD

[Unattributed report on 21 April session of Azerbaiydzhan Supreme Soviet]

[Excerpts] In Azerbaiydzhan people have acquired their happiness for all time in the cohesive family of Soviet fraternal peoples who are being led by the Communist Party to a great goal--communism. Their historic gains in economic, political and social and cultural life are enshrined in the new Constitution of the Azerbaiydzhan SSR, the draft of which was discussed with profound interest and tremendous enthusiasm by the extraordinary 7th Session of the republic's 9th Supreme Soviet.

The third meeting of the session opened at 1000 hours on 21 April.

In the presidium were G.A. Aliyev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Azerbaiydzhan Communist Party Central Committee; Azerbaiydzhan Communist Party Central Committee Bureau members A.I. Ibragimov, G.Kh. Ibragimov, I.A. Ibragimov, A.G. Kerimov, A.U. Konstantinov, V.S. Krasilnikov, R.G. Mamedzade, Yu.N. Pugachev, G.N. Seidov and K.A. Khalilov; and Azerbaiydzhan Communist Party Central Committee Bureau candidate members I.N. Askerov, Z.I. Guseynova, B.S. Kevorkov and G.S. Efendiyyev; in the boxes were members of the Presidium of the Azerbaiydzhan Supreme Soviet and members of the republic's government.

The discussion of the report delivered by Comrade G.A. Aliyev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, first secretary of the Azerbaiydzhan Communist Party Central Committee and chairman of the Commission To Prepare the Draft of the Azerbaiydzhan SSR Constitution, "On the Draft of the Constitution (Fundamental Law) of the Azerbaiydzhan SSR and the Results of Its Public Discussion" was continued.

A report on the results of the work of the Editing Commission To Prepare the Final Text of the Draft of the Constitution of the Azerbaiydzhan SSR was delivered by the commission's chairman, Comrade G.A. Aliyev.

Report of the Editing Commission

Comrade Deputies! Twenty-eight deputies participated in the discussion of the draft of the Constitution of the Azerbaiydzhan SSR. These were representatives of the working class, kolkhoz peasantry, people's intelligentsia and all strata of the working people. Deputies from the Nakhichevanskaya ASSR, the Nagorno-Karabahskaya Autonomous Oblast and many of the republic's cities and rayons expressed their opinion about the draft. All those who spoke unanimously supported the draft of the Azerbaiydzhan SSR Constitution. They observed that the draft is in accordance with the USSR Constitution and reflects with adequate fullness the specific features of our republic.

The propositions contained in the draft reflecting the role of the Communist Party, which is the nucleus of the political system of Soviet society and of its state and public organizations, met with the deputies' warm support.

The deputies approved the amendments, clarifications and changes made for the draft of the constitution on the basis of the results of its public discussion.

The deputies expressed the opinion that those important amplifications that were made in Section 8 of the draft, which regulates the complex of questions connected with the state plan for economic and social development and also with the republic's state budget are of important significance for the improvement of the republic's economic leadership.

The soundness and correctness of all the other amplifications and amendments included in the draft of the Constitution of the Azerbaiydzhan SSR were also noted.

Additional suggestions were submitted during the discussion at the session, and permit me to dwell briefly on these.

Deputy I.B. Kuliyev, leader of a comprehensive brigade at Kirovabadpromstroy, proposed that Article 72 of the draft, which contains a list of questions falling within the jurisdiction of the supreme organs of state power and administration, be amplified by an instruction that these organs also exercise leadership over trade and public catering. This is an important sector of the national economy, which requires close daily attention, and the editing commission deemed that the constitutional enshrinement of this proposition is perfectly valid.

Deputy K.N. Ragimov, first secretary of the Nakhichevanskiy Obkom, proposed that Article 114 be amplified to reflect in the constitution the functions of the Presidium of the Azerbaiydzhan Supreme Soviet concerning the approval of administrative-territorial reforms in the autonomous republic. The editing commission approved this proposal.

Comrade B.S. Kevorkov, first secretary of the Nagorno-Karabakhskiy Obkom, submitted a proposal concerning the alteration of the article in the draft relating to the times for convening sessions of the local soviets. The draft provides for the establishment of a periodicity for the convening of the sessions common to all local soviets--not less than four times a year. The local soviets are collectively operating organs of state power whose basic organizational-legal form of activity is their sessions. It is at the sessions that the most important, fundamental questions of state, economic and social and cultural building are discussed and solved on a collegial basis. Therefore the editing commission deemed it correct, as is proposed, to delineate the times for convening sessions according to the type of soviet and to establish that sessions of the oblast soviet of the Nagorno-Karabakhskaya Autonomous Oblast and of the rayon, city and city-rayon soviets

be convened at least four times a year, while sessions of rural and settlement soviets are convened at least six times a year.

Deputy Z.S. Gadzhiyev, chairman of the Sumgait Gorispolkom, expressed an opinion on the question of the competence of the local ispolkoms. He submitted a proposal that Article 146 of the draft be amplified with an instruction that local ispolkoms have the right to decide all questions falling within the jurisdiction of the soviets, with the exception of those which must be decided only at sessions of the soviets. The editing commission believes that the adoption of this proposal will make it possible to emphasize the responsibility of the executive and administrative organs for the solution of questions of economic and social and cultural building that fall within the jurisdiction of the local soviets.

Comrade Deputies! The editing commission has examined all the suggestions made by the deputies directly on the basis of the text of the draft of the constitution and has taken into account the proposed amendments and amplifications. The deputies thus have at their disposal a comprehensively examined and carefully prepared text of a draft on which the Supreme Soviet can take a vote.

The floor was offered to Comrade G.A. Aliyev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Azerbaiydzhan Communist Party Central Committee, who was warmly greeted by those assembled.

Comrade G.A. Aliyev's Closing Words

Esteemed Comrade Deputies! The Supreme Soviet, operating on behalf of the people and expressing their will, has adopted the new Azerbaiydzhan SSR Constitution. It is the offspring of the fundamental law of the Soviet state which has rallied together into a united fraternal family all the peoples of our great socialist native land.

During these solemn moments we recall with great emotion the historic day in the life of our motherland--7 October 1977--when the USSR Supreme Soviet approved the new Constitution of the Land of Soviets--a genuine manifesto of the epoch of developed socialism and of the building of communism. On that unforgettable day, which has gone down as a vivid milestone in world history and in the heroic annals of our country, Comrade L.I. Brezhnev, expressing from the rostrum of the Great Kremlin Palace the party's constant concern for the prosperity of all the Soviet peoples, particularly emphasized the significance of the drawing up and adoption of the constitutions of the union republics, and today we say with joy and pride that the constitutions of the fraternal union republics are adopted! The Constitution of the Azerbaiydzhan SSR is adopted! They mark an important milestone in the development of our multinational state and are convincing evidence of the triumph of Lenin's policy of nationalities.

The new Azerbaiydzhan SSR Constitution--the constitution of a republic of developed socialism--has summed up the path of struggles and victories

traveled by our people since they embarked on it on 28 April 1920. Fifty-eight years separate us from that historic event which transformed the destiny of the Azerbaiydzhan people, when the workers of Azerbaiydzhan, headed by the party of Bolsheviks, took power into their own hands, the sun of freedom rose over the land of Azerbaiydzhan and the banner of Great October was hoisted! These years have been filled with tireless, selfless labor and heroic military feats by the sons and daughters of our republic on the fronts of the Great Patriotic War, and by remarkable daring and achievements in building socialism and communism.

Vladimir Il'ich Lenin dreamed of seeing Azerbaiydzhan a model of socialism on the eastern [as published] borders of our motherland. We are right to be proud of the fact that Lenin's vision has come true. Thanks to the wise leadership of the Communist Party, Soviet Azerbaiydzhan, as part of our united multinational state, has been transformed into a flourishing republic with a highly developed economy and progressive science and culture. As Comrade L.I. Brezhnev so aptly put it, Soviet Azerbaiydzhan is convincing proof of the mighty creative strength of socialism, and of the strength of Leninist ideas, and an inspiring example for young national states and for the peoples who are struggling for their national and social liberation.

Each new stage in the development of Soviet Azerbaiydzhan, as of the entire country, has been marked by the adoption of a new constitution. The four fundamental laws of the Azerbaiydzhan SSR reflect, as it were in a mirror, the tremendous gains of our people in their ascent to the pinnacles of political and socio-economic progress. The 1978 Constitution of the Azerbaiydzhan SSR, which today acquires the force of law, is a document of creation and brotherhood which embodies the Leninist policy of nationalities consistently and unswervingly implemented by our party and by its Central Committee, headed by Comrade L.I. Brezhnev.

The public discussion of the draft of the republic's new constitution, the businesslike and at the same time elated and festive atmosphere of the work of the session of the Supreme Soviet and the actual adoption of the fundamental law have developed into a vivid demonstration of the monolithic unity of the party and the people and of total support for the domestic and foreign policy of the CPSU and Soviet state. The working class, kolkhoz peasantry and intelligentsia of the republic have again and again expressed their boundless trust in the CPSU, its Central Committee and the Central Committee Politburo, and their feelings of deep love and respect for the wise leaders of our party and of the Soviet people, the tireless worker and fighter for peace and for a better future for mankind, Leonid Il'ich Brezhnev.

The Constitution of the Azerbaiydzhan SSR enshrines the ideas and principles of the great charter of the society of developed socialism--the fundamental law of the USSR--which has absorbed the historical experience, collective will and collective wisdom of all the peoples of the Soviet country, headed by our elder brother--the great Russian people.

At the dawn of the nineteenth century, more than 160 years ago, Azerbaydzhan became part of Russia and since that time the fate of the Azerbaydzhan people has been inseparably linked with the Russian people. They inspired the liberation struggle of the working masses of Azerbaydzhan. The best representatives of Russian social thought and culture carried the light of knowledge and progressive ideas into the midst of the Azerbaydzhan people. Shoulder to shoulder with the Russian working class, the proletarians of Azerbaydzhan stormed the old world, and after the victory of the socialist revolution in Petrograd, Azerbaydzhan was the first from the east to take its place on the October barricade. The Russian people helped our people to win and to firmly establish Soviet power on Azerbaydzhan soil for all time. They made a generous contribution to the development of the national economy and culture of our republic, and on the festive day of the adoption of their republic's new constitution, the Azerbaydzhan people express heartfelt gratitude to the great Russian people and to all the Soviet fraternal peoples for their disinterested friendship and support and for their selfless loyalty to Lenin's behests and to the sacred banner of proletarian, socialist internationalism.

Comrade Deputies! The coming into force of the republic's constitution requires the establishment of precise order which is envisaged in the law on the coming into force of the Azerbaydzhan SSR Constitution (Fundamental Law). It is based on the premise that all the legislative and other enactments of the state organs which were adopted prior to the coming into force of the constitution remain valid, insofar as they do not contravene the new Constitution of the Azerbaydzhan SSR.

The new Constitution of the Azerbaydzhan SSR provides for the devising of a number of very important legislative acts and above all, the adoption of the constitution of the Nakhichevanskaya ASSR. Drafts of new laws concerning elections to the republic's Supreme Soviet and to local soviets, drafts of the Supreme Soviet regulations, of the law on the republic's Council of Ministers and of the law on the Nagorno-Karabakhskaya Autonomous Oblast have to be prepared and submitted for the examination of the supreme organ of state power.

Much work has also to be done on bringing the legislation of the Azerbaydzhan SSR into conformity with the new constitution. All the existing legislation of the republic has to be revised, and obsolete norms deleted from it, and many new acts have to be devised, arising from the requirements of the constitution. The closest attention must be paid to the numerous specific proposals which were submitted during the public discussion, but which could not be reflected in the fundamental law of our republic, since they have a direct bearing on current legislation.

During the public discussion many proposals and critical comments were made on questions connected with the activity of the soviets, of their executive and administrative organs and of the ministries, departments and other state and public organs. These proposals vividly reflected the increased political

activeness of the republic's workers, their vital interest in state and public affairs and their desire to wage a merciless struggle against bad management, negligence and narrow, egotistical views and private-ownership tendencies.

The implementation of the workers' proposals must contribute to the improvement of production management, rational labor organization, the mobilization of available reserves and the enhancement of the responsibility of the personnel for the work entrusted to them.

Comrade Deputies! The new USSR Constitution, which determines the rhythm and content of all our life, has been in force for more than 6 months. Now the new Constitution of the Azerbaijani SSR, which fully reflects the principles and provisions of the fundamental law of the Soviet state will come into force too! It will be a powerful stimulus to the continued labor enthusiasm of the masses and to the galvanization of their participation in running the affairs of production and of the state.

Our task is to direct the enthusiasm and creative initiative of the workers, kolkhoz members and the intelligentsia to the struggle to further increase production efficiency and the quality of all work. We are sure that the republic's workers, inspired by the new constitution, will strive even harder and with great persistence for the ahead-of-schedule fulfillment of plans and socialist pledges for 1978 and the five-year plan as a whole, and increase their contribution to implementing the historic decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress.

Comrade Deputies! There have been Supreme Soviet sessions in all the union republics to approve the new constitutions. Soviet socialist democracy has taken yet another important step in its development, signifying the further strengthening of our statehood, the strengthening of the fraternal union of the USSR peoples and even greater guarantees of the rights and freedoms of Soviet citizens. Permit me, on behalf of the Supreme Soviet, the people of Azerbaijan and all the workers of the republic to congratulate the fraternal peoples of the RSFSR, the Ukraine, Belorussia, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Georgia, Lithuania, Moldavia, Latvia, Kirgizia, Tadzhikistan, Armenia, Turkmenia and Estonia on the adoption of their new constitutions and to wish them great successes in building their national statehood, economy and culture and in building communism.

Dear Comrades! The new Azerbaijani SSR Constitution is a majestic anthem to the gains of the Azerbaijani people, their revolutionary enthusiasm, energy and courage. Our fundamental law is the Azerbaijani people's oath of unshakeable loyalty to the multinational socialist homeland, to the fraternity and friendship of the USSR peoples, to proletarian internationalism and socialist internationalism. The new republic constitution is our oath of utter devotion to the banner of Great October, the cause of Lenin and the ideals of communism. In adopting the constitution, the republic's workers are expressing supreme gratitude to the Communist Party,

its Central Committee and dear Leonid Il'ich Brezhnev for their fatherly concern for the welfare of the Soviet people and the prosperity of Azerbaydzhan.

The stirring solemnity of the events we are witnessing is reflected in the words of the Azerbaydzhan State Anthem:

Lenin paved for us the path to happiness and the party is leading us forward;

And the bright light of communism is calling us to valiant achievements;

We have created a new world and we are striving toward the future, so glory to our Azerbaydzhan in the family of the republics of the entire country!

Today we assure the party's Leninist Central Committee, the Central Committee Politburo and Comrade L.I. Brezhnev personally that we will devote all our strength, knowledge and experience to implementing the USSR Constitution and the Azerbaydzhan SSR Fundamental Law, the majestic undertakings of the Communist Party and the flourishing of our great socialist motherland.

Long live the USSR!

Glory to the Leninist friendship of the USSR peoples!

Long live the Azerbaydzhan SSR!

Glory to the CPSU--inspirer and organizer of all our victories!

Final Version

Baku BAKINSKIY RABOCHIY in Russian 23 Apr 78 pp 1-4

[Excerpts] Article 73. The state language of the Azerbaydzhan Soviet Socialist Republic is the Azerbaydzhani language.

The Azerbaydzhan SSR ensures the use in state and social organs, institutions of culture, education and other institutions of the Azerbaydzhani language and implements the state concern for its utmost development.

In the Azerbaydzhan SSR on the basis of equality free use is ensured in all these organs and institutions of the Russian language, as well as other languages used by the population.

No privileges or restrictions in the use of any languages are permitted.

Article 117. The laws of the Azerbaydzhan SSR, decrees and other acts of the Supreme Soviet of the Azerbaydzhan SSR are published in the Azerbaydzhani, Russian and Armenian languages, signed by the Chairman and Secretary of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Azerbaydzhan SSR.

Article 171. Judicial proceedings in the Azerbaiydzhan SSR are conducted in the Azerbaiydzhani language or in the language of the autonomous republic, autonomous oblast or in the language of the majority of the population of the given locality. Those persons taking part in the proceedings who do not have a command of the language in which the judicial proceedings are being conducted are ensured the right to become fully familiar with the materials of the proceedings, and to participate in the legal actions through an interpreter, and the right to speak in court in the native language.

Article 180. The state coat of arms of the Azerbaiydzhan Soviet Socialist Republic is a depiction of a hammer and sickle and an oil derrick against a background of a rising sun and framed with a wreath of cotton and ears of grain, with an inscription in the Azerbaiydzhani language: [Short passage in the Azerbaiydzhani script follows] and in the Russian language: "Azerbaiydzhan Soviet Socialist Republic," "Proletarians of All Countries, Unite!" In the upper part of the coat of arms is a five-pointed star.

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